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Volume 18 Number 5465

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18-19, 1993, JUMADA AL THANI 4-5, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

King honours Turkish general

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received General Dogan Gures, chief of the Turkish General Staff, and discussed with him issues of common interest to Jordan and Turkey. The King conferred on Gen. Gures the Jordanian military Istiklal Medal of the First Order. Present at the audience were the King's military secretary, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, and General Abdul Hafez Mirai, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his assistant. (Majali meets Gures, page 3)

King attends festival

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein attended a festival held at the Palace of Culture and organised by the Ministry of Education on the occasion of his birthday. The festival was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal and Prince Ali Ben Nayef.

Ties approved with Comoros

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree issued Wednesday endorsed a Cabinet decision recognising the Comoros Islands and establishing diplomatic relations with that country.

Unit off to Croatia

AMMAN (Petra) — The first group of the fifth batch of Jordanian peacekeeping forces left for Croatia Wednesday. His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bade farewell to the troops.

Bani Hanj named to succeed Bilbeisi

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Wednesday announced the appointment of Mohammad Bani Hanj as secretary general of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. The former secretary general, Motaz Bilbeisi, was retired upon his request.

Rashdan presents draft charter of centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Centre for Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights in the Arab World Najib Rashdan Wednesday presented a draft of the centre's interior regulations to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali. The draft law stipulates the formation of the centre's board of trustees by a Royal Decree. The board should represent scholars in the country and in the Arab World.

Psychiatrist testifies accused mentally well

AMMAN (Petra) — The State Security Court trying 10 people for an assassination plot against His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday heard a testimony by a doctor from the Zarqa military hospital denying that the accused were suffering from psychological problems. The physician testified that his examination of the accused did not show that any one of them was suffering from such condition except for the eighth defendant who, he said, suffered from mild state of anxiety.

Hassan II seeks to end Muslim rift

RABAT (AP) — King Hassan II told Iranian religious leaders that no Islamic country should interfere in the internal affairs of another. King Hassan and six leading Iranian clerics agreed Tuesday to narrow the differences between the rival branches of Islam they represent. "Islam should remain a rallying point and unifying factor and its practices and concepts should not be the object of any divergence," King Hassan said.

Israel, PLO reach accord on some points

Agreement reported in Cairo on roads and crossings; economic talks resume on Monday

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiators reached agreement here Wednesday on roads, border crossings and coastal waters in secret negotiations on implementing the Palestinian autonomy deal, sources close to the talks said.

The two sides agreed Israeli forces will patrol roads in the Gaza Strip and Jericho region, but will not be able to set up fixed checkpoints.

Israel had wanted to set up nine posts in the Gaza Strip alone, the sources said. On the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, Israel dropped a demand to keep its forces on the Palestinian side of the boundary.

But the Palestinians agreed to leave a 100-metre wide strip vacant on their side.

The Israelis also agreed that the future Palestinian authority would control the territorial waters up to 20 nautical miles off the coast.

Palestinian fishermen will only need permission from the Palestinian authorities to put to sea.

The sides have still to agree on policing the border between

the Gaza Strip and Egypt, between Jericho and Jordan, the geographical limits of the Jericho region, delineating the Jewish settlements on the Gaza Strip, and the problem of some 11,000 prisoners still held by Israel whom the PLO wants released.

The Israelis and Palestinians must reach agreement by Dec. 13, the date for Israel to begin its withdrawal under the autonomy deal signed on Sept. 13. Israeli Energy and Police Minister Moshe Shahal joined the secret talks Wednesday, a source close to the meeting said.

Mr. Shahal arrived in Cairo earlier Wednesday, ostensibly for talks on energy cooperation.

The PLO official leading the Palestinian team at the secret talks, Nabil Shaath, told Reuters that the negotiations had made "real progress."

He said there was a good chance of reaching agreement in time for the Israeli withdrawal to start on Dec. 13.

Delegates had expected a special Israeli team to arrive on Wednesday, the third day of the sixth round of the withdrawal talks, to discuss the

issue of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

Sources close to the talks said Mr. Shahal would review the technical details of security arrangements agreed over the past two days to protect 3,000 Jews in 17 settlements in Gaza and discuss the prisoner issue.

They said the Israeli delegation, led by Major-General Amnon Shahak, had accepted a PLO plan to deploy 5,000 well-equipped Palestinian police in Gaza and 1,000 in the West Bank town of Jericho. A million Palestinians live in Gaza and several thousand in Jericho.

The Israelis want to keep control of Rafah, on the Gaza-Egyptian border, along with the Palestinians on the ground it is part of the international borders and that its final status should be discussed during the permanent settlement.

But the PLO rejected the idea and insisted on full control, saying the Rafah passage was part of internal security.

It was also agreed Israeli troops would provide extra security for two settlements in

(Continued on page 5)

Stands harden on both sides as Arab-Israeli violence continues

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — A Palestinian stabbed to death an Israeli soldier Wednesday as troop reinforcements were moved into the occupied territories to contain the growing violence.

Twenty-four Palestinians and nine Israelis have been killed since the Sept. 13 signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord, and the fresh flareup is threatening to erode support for the peace talks.

The escalation comes at a time when Israeli and Palestinian negotiators report progress in the Cairo talks on implementing the autonomy agreement. Self-rule is to begin in mid-April in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, visiting Canada, said the attacks would not sway Israel from the peace talks. He called on Israelis to be on the alert for further attacks.

"With all of the pain and sorrow, we will continue with the negotiations, and we will fight terror," Mr. Rabin said on army radio. "This terror wants to kill Israelis and kill the peace process."

Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur demanded PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat appear on Arab television stations and call for an end to the violence.

A PLO spokesman in Tunis condemned violence by Jewish settlers against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank as a

violation of the Israel-PLO agreement.

"These acts totally contradict the commitments made by the Israeli government and violate the spirit of the agreement," the spokesman told the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Settlers have been blocking highways in the occupied territories with burning tyres and barricades, keeping Palestinians in some cases confined in their own houses.

The Palestinian assailant in Wednesday's attack was identified by Palestinian sources as Ryad Salem Hussein Al Arhir, a 20-year-old Islamic Jihad member from Gaza city. The group is opposed to the Israel-PLO deal.

The Palestinian attacked the reservist at a food stall at the Nahal Oz crossing on the east side of the Strip. He slit his throat and grabbed his weapon, the military spokesman said.

The owner of the stall, a resident of Nahal Oz, fought with the assailant until other soldiers and civilians captured him.

The reservist meanwhile staggered 20 metres before collapsing. He died shortly after in hospital, the spokesman added.

The Nahal Oz junction is a main Gaza entry point for both the Israeli military and Palestinian day labourers, with mingling in front of the snack shop owned by a nearby kibbutz a

common occurrence.

In the West Bank town of Al Bireh, a PLO leaflet Wednesday called for attacks on settlers to avenge the death of 16-year-old Rami Ghazawi who was shot dead when troops fired into a schoolyard Tuesday to disperse stone throwers.

"Kill them before they kill you," said the leaflet signed by the Shabibeh youth movement of Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction.

Hussein Al Sheikh, a Fatah leader in Ramallah, said there is "a great deal of dissatisfaction in the Palestinian street with the Israeli government's stand, especially with regard to the introductions given to the army not to confront settlers."

The leaflet, apparently written by low-ranking Fatah activists, also reflected growing disappointment there had been no real change in Israeli army behaviour since the accord on self-rule was signed.

"If Israel is truly not interested in peace... and if Israel continued to carry out killings and arrests, and pursues and tortures our people... what peace are they talking about," the leaflet said.

PLO officials played down the threats, saying the leaflet was written locally and did not reflect official PLO positions.

At Ghazawi's school, students were pessimistic about peace prospects following the shooting.



King meets Dudayev

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Wednesday the president of the Chechen Republic within the Russian Federation, Jawahar Mousa Dudayev, who is currently on private visit to the Kingdom. Present at the audience

(photo above) were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Mr. Dudayev arrived in Amman Tuesday. He is on his way to Sudan.

Syria: Lebanon attacks to go on

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Attacks against Israel and its allies in South Lebanon will end only when there is an Israeli pullout, Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam has said.

Mr. Khaddam, in remarks published Wednesday, also ruled out reaching a Syrian-Israeli peace accord before the end of this year.

"The Lebanese resistance, with all its parties, say they will fight Israel until the south is liberated," Mr. Khaddam said in a radio interview.

"So we believe the Lebanese national and Islamic resistance would continue as long as occupation continued... but when occupation ends the justification would cease to exist."

A full text of Mr. Khaddam's interview with Radio Monte Carlo was published by official Syrian newspapers.

Guerrillas of Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah attacked positions of Israeli forces and their allies in South Lebanon on Tuesday and captured 12 Israeli-recruited Lebanese militiamen.

Israel retaliated by blasting Hizbollah bases in eastern Lebanon in what was described as the fiercest fighting in Lebanon since the signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord, condemned by Hizbollah and hardline Palestinian groups.

Asked about Syria's objection to Lebanese army deployment in South Lebanon to block attacks against Israel, Mr. Khaddam said: "This issue concerns the Lebanese government which decides what is useful and what is not useful."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday Syria deliberately prevented the disarming of Hizbollah guerrillas.

Jordan, Egypt and Israel to share Red Sea pollution control

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan, Egypt and Israel have agreed to cooperate in sharing data and equipment to monitor pollution in the Red Sea region in the first tangible result from four sessions of the multilateral working group on Middle East environment, officials and diplomats said Wednesday.

Reporting on decisions adopted by a two-day meeting of the working group in Cairo, they said the gathering also approved the setting up of a Palestinian environmental authority.

But the key issue of Israeli nuclear waste disposal remained unaddressed after the Jewish state refused to include the topic in the agenda,

the officials and diplomats told the Jordan Times.

Anis Muasher, the head of the Jordanian delegation to the Cairo meeting, the second session of a multilateral working group of the peace process in an Arab country, was not immediately available for comment.

The officials and diplomats said that Israel countered an Arab-backed Egyptian demand that it reveal details of the nuclear waste it has buried in the desert and make all further disposal known to its neighbours, they said.

The Israelis argued that this is a political issue outside the framework of the multilateral working groups and as such they would not entertain any discussion of the subject, one official said.

Diplomats said the Israelis

were supported by the U.S., which also enlisted Russia to throw its weight behind the Jewish state's stand.

"Basically it was largely an Egyptian-Israeli confrontation," said one diplomat. "Israel won in the end, but it only a temporary victory since it was decided that the subject will be on the table when the working group meets again in April."

The issue of nuclear waste is seen as highly sensitive to the Arab countries as well as Israel since the Jewish state is the only country in the region believed to possess nuclear weapons.

Other subjects discussed at the meeting included land reclamation, afforestation and means to prevent desertification.

(Continued on page 5)

4 parties sign House alliance

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Four political parties, three of whose members won eight seats in the Nov. 8 elections, announced Wednesday that they were coordinating policy and stand in Parliament.

Akef Al Fayed, head of the traditionalist Al Watan Party, said that the alliance, which does not mean merger, involved the Yakatha Party, the Jordan National Alliance (JNA), the Party for Progress and Justice (PPJ) and Al Watan.

Flanked by Al Watan General-Secretary Hassan Al Kayed, JNA Secretary-General Mihjem Kheishah, Yakatha Secretary-General Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and PPJ Secretary-General Ali Saad, Mr. Fayed presided over the signing ceremony of an accord which created the "conglomeration" of the four parties.

"In the interest of Jordan and national unity, we hereby

create this conglomeration based on national principles of unity and justice without discrimination against origins or sectarian affiliations," Mr. Fayed, a member of the Upper House, told a press conference that accompanied the signing ceremony.

Mr. Kheishah denied the eight deputies-elect of Al Watan (two), Al Yakatha (two) and JNA (four) would form "parliamentary bloc."

He said that they would act on the same "political principles" in Parliament.

The spokesman for the conglomeration would not say "at this time" how many members of JNA had won seats in Parliament. Earlier this week, Mr. Kheishah had given the Jordan Times the names of the eight deputies-elect.

Mr. Kheishah told the Jordan Times Sunday: "We obtained eight seats in Parliament... and will aim to draw a group as large as 22 people into our sphere within Parliament by the beginning of next

month."

Al Yakatha's Rawabdeh won a seat in Irbid while fellow party member Ibrahim Samara won in Ramtha and Beni Kenana.

Al Watan said two of its party members won seats — Mohammad Thuwailib in Amman's Second District and Fayyad Jarrar in Zarqa.

The JNA deputies-elect are: Nawaf Al Qadi from the Northern Bedouin district, Jamal Kheishah from the Central Bedouin District, Mohammad Najjad from the Southern Bedouin District and Ishak Farah Al Azzat from the Sixth District of Amman.

Six of the eight deputies-elect were present at Wednesday's press conference.

Mr. Thuwailib and Mr. Jarrar were absent and party officials said the two were holding negotiations with other deputies-elect on alliances in the House.

(Continued on page 5)

PLO reformists gather slow momentum, but results uncertain

By Lamis K. Andoni

EVEN though a petition demanding immediate reforms within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has not yet enlisted broad signatures, the movement for change is picking up serious momentum among Palestinians from all shades of the political spectrum, according to Palestinian officials.

The petition that is being circulated in Jordan and the Israeli-occupied territories was sent to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Tuesday. There was no immediate response from Tunis on the document that strongly criti-

cises Mr. Arafat's single-handed approach in handling Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

However, Palestinian politicians, including those who have signed the petition as well as those who refrained from endorsing it, agree that a protest reformist movement has begun and that Mr. Arafat cannot afford to continue ignoring discontent among Palestinians in the diaspora and the occupied territories.

The reformist movement, judging by interviews with PLO officials, still lacks unity over means to enforce change. Advocates of the petition as a catalyst for a

popular protest movement argue that building up pressure on Mr. Arafat would eventually work — because he could find himself alone. But others fear that the publicised move will backfire, enabling the PLO leader to marginalise the "opposition."

Many draw on what they describe as Mr. Arafat's past success in co-opting reformists through appointments or his skill in discrediting critics by claiming privately or publicly that they are backed if not incited by Arab governments.

This time, however, Mr. Arafat's tactics are not ex-

pected to have the same effect or success not only because of the nature of the advocates' identity, but also because of a growing conviction that Mr. Arafat's one-man rule could lead to a disaster for the Palestinian people — especially when the implementation of the Palestinian autonomy plan starts.

There is no doubt that Mr. Arafat has started feeling the heat. The Fatah Revolutionary Council has last week issued a communique clearly demanding that the future Palestinian entity be based on pluralism, respect for human rights, and legislation that

guarantees equal rights for women.

The council's statement, however, could be meaningless if Mr. Arafat does not abandon his individualistic approach, observers say. Mr. Arafat could even use the Fatah communique to diffuse

ANALYSIS

the growing discontent and more significantly to guarantee that his Fatah movement will not join the protest.

Although many Fatah members strongly support reforms, there are three impor-

tant factors that could contain dissent within its ranks — at least in the short term:

— First, many reformists inside Fatah still believe that the movement should get the lion's share in any immediate or future appointments. Mr. Arafat, who is acutely aware of this factor, is expected to fully use it to keep Fatah behind him to counter other groups.

— Second, there is a trend within Fatah that strongly believes fundamental reforms could only be seriously introduced once the leadership moves to Jericho or Gaza.

"Arafat can easily ignore demands for reforms now but

once he moves from his exile to be among his people, the situation will be different. He cannot simply ignore daily pressures from his own people for a different leadership style," said one Fatah official who fully supports the demands for reforms but has not signed the petition.

— Third, many Fatah rank and file seem reluctant to actively endorse and pursue reformist demands for fear of undermining their own positions.

"We have to keep our heads low until the situation changes. We are sure that the

(Continued on page 5)

Algerian court sentences 37 to death

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A court in Algeria has sentenced to death 37 people, 30 in their absence, for involvement in 21 murders, officials announced Tuesday.

Eight others were acquitted by the court in Medea, 90 kilometres south of Algiers, and the others among the 111 people accused were sentenced to prison terms varying from life to three years, the officials said.

The group were accused of killing five policemen in the Laghouat region, and the murders of 16 others including 12 security officials. They were also charged with a sabotage attempt on a Algerian-Italian gas pipeline.

At least 357 fundamentalists have been sentenced to death in Algeria since a state of emergency was imposed in February 1992. Of these, 26 have been executed.

The authorities decreed the state of emergency after an outbreak of street violence that followed their cancellation of a general election in which the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had taken a massive first-round lead.

In a separate case, a pro-

secutor earlier on Tuesday sought the death penalty against five Muslim militants accused of killing six policemen in a February, 1992 ambush in Algiers.

France said Tuesday it had formally urged its allies to crack down on Algerian fundamentalists living in their countries.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said in an interview with the newspaper Le Monde that Paris was pressing for a better coordination of an international fight against Islamic fundamentalism.

"We became conscious long before our European partners of the reality of the fundamentalists' threat, perhaps because we are more exposed, but I am sure they will come to take the same measures as us," Mr. Pasqua said.

"Better coordination would be desirable and we are working for that. Statements made by certain people in Britain, Germany and the United States have led the French government to make diplomatic approaches," he said.

He was apparently referring to statements by exiled members of the FIS.

Rabah Kebir, the avowed leader of the FIS's council in exile is living in the Cologne-Bonn area and giving almost daily interviews to French media.

The French are also keen to muzzle Anwar Rahddam, a Chicago-based Muslim preacher, and activists in Britain and Sweden they suspect of being closed to underground armed Islamic guerrilla groups in Algeria, diplomats said.

France last week rounded up 88 suspected FIS supporters. Three have been placed under investigation for being party to a terrorist conspiracy. Several others have been placed under house arrest in remote areas of the country.

The interior minister said the raids had yielded many documents, "some of which shed light on the links between fundamentalist militants in France and the events in Algeria."

"We have proof that Islamist elements — without penetration or manipulation (by the Algerian security forces) — were involved in the murder of two of our countrymen and the

kidnapping of three of our consular officials," he said.

"We have a duty to know whether they had accomplices in France. That is what we were looking for."

Mr. Pasqua said France would not allow any foreign organisation on its soil to conduct activity harmful to its interests or contrary to its laws.

The French Foreign Ministry declined comment on Tuesday on a statement sent apparently by the FIS to a news agency in Paris indirectly threatening French interests.

The statement said: "Those who cooperate with a regime which has no other aim than to consider its accomplices in crimes against the Algerian people..."

"The government of a country which calls for respect of human rights, then arrests dozens of Muslim Algerians and gives material assistance to the fascist clique (in power in Algeria), is responsible for the death of its citizens and the real danger to its own interests."

It also ruled out any dialogue with the army-backed Algerian government.

Israel invites Palestinians to scroll hunt

JERUSALEM (AP) — Under political and academic pressure, Israel's antiquities authority on Tuesday opened the search for new Dead Sea scrolls to all archaeologists and invited Palestinians especially to join.

A statement from the antiquities authority vowed that any discoveries would be subject to a settlement reached during Palestinian-Israeli peace talks.

The invitation was an Israeli attempt to blunt criticism by Palestinians that Israel was plundering artifacts shortly before it had to give up the land as part of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord.

It was also directed at Israeli archaeologists who had complained that they had been left out of the digs.

On Tuesday, the antiquities authority issued a statement

asking Palestinian archaeologists and archaeologists from Israeli universities to join the search.

"The desert is very big and we welcome any archaeologist from around the world," said antiquities authority spokeswoman Efrat Orbach.

Nazmi Joubi, an archaeologist and advisor to the Palestinian negotiating team, rejected the Israeli offer.

"The Israelis are like those who confiscate a plot of land and then ask the owner to come and negotiate how to divide up that piece of land," Mr. Joubi said.

"We can not cooperate under a scientific umbrella and under these conditions. They should not dig in the first place," he added.

Israel's invitation came as 16 teams of government archaeologists and surveyors combed the desert near the

West Bank town of Jericho for the third day in a drive to find hidden scrolls. The area is to revert to Arab control by April 13.

Israeli archaeologist Dan Bahat said the gesture was meaningless and that no one would come.

"It was done in order to try to appease all the archaeologists who tried to oppose it," said Mr. Bahat, former chief archaeologist of Jerusalem.

Archaeologist Meir Ben-Dov said he would not join the search because he did not think there were any scrolls left.

"Besides, how can they ever know for sure that nothing was left, and if it was left for the Palestinians to discover, then so what?" said Mr. Ben-Dov, who excavated the Old City of Jerusalem after it was seized in the 1967 war.

Egyptian students accuse government of bias

CAIRO (AP) — The government's fight against Islamic extremism is spilling into college campuses, where fundamentalist students are denied political rights and dormitory beds, activists charged Tuesday.

Student leaders from Cairo and Alexandria complained at a news conference that 1,066 students have been evicted from their rooms at four different universities since classes began last month.

Cairo University, the country's largest, contends housing decisions are made because of need and that radical students are using a housing shortage to disrupt classes and foment trouble.

Meantime in Assiut 320 kilometres south of Cairo, more than 150 women students wearing the full veiled hijab demonstrated Tuesday against authorities preventing them from entering the campus with covered faces. During the march, security forces cordoned the grounds to prevent trouble.

The veil problem has cropped up periodically at Assiut University since it became a focus of Islamic activism in the 1980s. University officials say the no-cover rule is necessary for identification.

The students in Cairo said most of those deprived of dormitory rooms are Muslim fundamentalists — including women who insist on wearing the full veil — but a few belong to leftist groups.

"Egyptian students are being thrown out to the streets because of their beliefs," said Dia' Zakariya, a student leader at Ain Shams University in Cairo. "The goal is to eliminate any opposing view."

The student also complained that security officials were trying to block Muslim fundamentalist from running in student union elections.

University officials could not be reached for comment. But Mufid Shehab, president of Cairo University, told an Egyptian magazine that running in student elections is limited only by university rules and that activists were exploiting the housing problem for political purposes.

UNRWA outlines role in support of peace

THE United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is prepared to play a substantial role in supporting social and economic development during the transition period in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to continue to provide for the essential needs of Palestinian refugees elsewhere, the agency's commissioner general, Ilter Turkmen, said in New York Monday.

Mr. Turkmen was presenting his annual report to the United Nations General Assembly's Special Political and Decolonisation Committee (Fourth Committee), which was beginning a week-long debate on UNRWA's work.

Noting that the committee was meeting in a totally new political environment in the wake of the Sept. 13 accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr. Turkmen said that UNRWA was adapting itself to the new situation and had prepared programmes aimed at supporting the peace process and responding rapidly to the immediate need to promote economic and social development in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The entire U.N. system would be called upon to play a role in the light of the Israel-PLO declaration of principles, Mr. Turkmen said. In line with the objectives defined by a U.N. Task Force for an integrated United Nations

approach to immediate assistance for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA had developed short-term projects to improve services and infrastructure, mainly in those areas in which the agency was already playing a large role. UNRWA's peace implementation programme (PIP), developed in consultation with the Palestinian leadership, had identified nearly 100 short-term projects which, if financed, could be implemented within six to nine months.

Mr. Turkmen emphasised that UNRWA's ongoing programmes, particularly in education and health, were based on an integrated approach, in cooperation with other U.N. agencies such as the World Health Organisation, UNESCO, UNICEF and the U.N. Population Fund. For the next two years at least, he said, UNRWA seemed to be one of the main international agencies through which substantial amounts of funds could be efficiently channelled in support of the peace process, due to the agency's established infrastructure and 20,000-strong staff.

"Over the years, UNRWA has been an executing agency which plans, prepares, implements and administers its own projects and programmes" for more than 2.8 million Palestinian refugees, Mr. Turkmen said. "The fruit of the rich experience that UNRWA staff have accumulated over the years is

now being harvested to help sustain the peace process."

UNRWA's short-term projects all relate to economic and social advancement and are in sectors in which UNRWA has long experience, Mr. Turkmen said. They are vital for essential services needed by the Palestinian community under any scenario that develops under the peace process. The projects also address the urgent need for new job opportunities.

The commissioner-general also drew attention to the needs of the 1.7 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, whose needs should not be overlooked. The agency's efforts to ensure that their needs were not neglected and that services to them were improved were finding a positive response from donors, he said.

UNRWA is an agency linked to a specific problem, that of Palestinian refugees, Mr. Turkmen concluded. If a settlement was reached at the end of the interim period as spelled out in the Israel-PLO declaration of principles, then there would no longer be a need for UNRWA. "For the first time we now have a concrete sense that we are coming towards the end of the task entrusted to us over 40 years ago," he said. "From now on, our main concern will be to complete this task as successfully as possible." — UNRWA press release.

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18:00 News in French
18:15 Rencontre
18:30 News in Hebrew
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20:00 (Country)

04:41 Fay
06:02 (Sunrise) Dula
11:30 Dhuhr
14:15 'Asr
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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi official postpones Iran visit

NICOSIA (R) — Iran says a senior Iraqi official postponed a visit to Tehran, probably because it would have coincided with a U.N. investigation there of reports that Iraq used chemical weapons against its southern marsh Arabs. A Foreign Ministry official confirmed a report in the Tehran Times that the visit by Iraqi Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, scheduled for last Friday, was called off without a new date being set. Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency, said in an interview published in the paper that he believed Iraq had delayed the trip because of the visit to Iran of U.N. experts which started on Sunday. He said Iran was ready to receive the Iraqi delegation in the near future.

Chemical agents detected during Gulf war

WASHINGTON (AP) — Low levels of chemical agents were detected several times on battlefields during the Gulf war, a Marine chemical expert said Tuesday during testimony on mysterious ailments afflicting war veterans. Joseph P. Cottrell, a chief warrant officer who served with a nuclear, biological and chemical defence team during the war, said his detection vehicle twice picked up traces of lewisite blister vapors. The Marine told the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee that he passed on the information to his superiors but that the computer tape has since been lost. The Pentagon, after long denying any evidence the Iraqis used chemical or biological agents during the 1991 war, last week acknowledged the work of Czech teams that found traces of nerve gas and a blister agent in the Gulf region. But Defence Secretary Les Aspin said the chemicals did not cause the illnesses afflicting thousands of Gulf veterans. Mr. Cottrell said the tape may have been misdirected and "I fervently believe that no one person purposely suppressed, destroyed or lost any of the chemical reports."

Oilman freed from Iraq arrives in U.S.

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE (R) — Joyous but exhausted following his release from an Iraqi prison, U.S. oilman Kenneth Beatty landed on American soil Tuesday and said he had been a "political pawn" in the war of nerves between Baghdad and the West. "I was not mistreated. I was nothing more than a political pawn with the United States and the Iraqi government," Mr. Beatty told reporters following an all-night flight from Amman. "Their back was to the wall and they just needed... an excuse they needed something to open a dialogue, something to gain recognition from the Western world," Mr. Beatty said. Mr. Beatty had been sentenced to eight years in prison after inadvertently crossing into Iraq from Kuwait last April 25 in search of an oil rig. He was given an early release from an Iraqi jail Monday by President Saddam Hussein after serving 205 days for entering the country illegally.

Arafat to visit Germany in December

BONN (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will make an official visit to Germany in early December, government sources said late Tuesday. Although no exact date was given for the trip, a reliable source said it could be Dec. 7 or 8, but it was not known which government members Mr. Arafat would meet. The PLO leader is to make the trip at the invitation of Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. He met Mr. Kinkel in Brussels on Nov. 8 on the sidelines of a meeting of European Community foreign ministers, where European backing for the Israeli-PLO accord for progressive Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories was discussed.

Iran rejects U.S. 'Rambo' claims

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iran dismissed Tuesday "Rambo-style" allegations by U.S. officials that members of the fundamentalist Hizbollah organisation had arrived in Mogadishu and might be planning car-bomb attacks. A statement issued by the Iranian U.N. mission said the charges against Iran and its nationals were "baseless, disingenuous and misleading." Referring to one U.S. official's claim that fewer than half a dozen Hizbollah members from Lebanon or Iran had arrived in the Somali capital and allegedly included car-bombing experts, it said: "The U.S. campaign... is more in tune with Rambo-style Hollywood movies than with responsibly dealing with problems in which U.S. forces have entangled themselves in Mogadishu." Iran called it a "contemptible ploy to divert international attention from the failure of both the United States policy and military operations in Somalia, at the expense of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Kaddoumi meets Pik Botha in Tunis

TUNIS (AFP) — South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha held an unscheduled meeting here Tuesday with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) second-in-command Farouk Kaddoumi. Mr. Botha announced at the end of a two-day visit to Tunisia. The meeting with Mr. Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Foreign Affairs Department, was arranged by the Tunisian government. Mr. Botha said during a news conference at the Tunis-Carthage airport, where he was accompanied by Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia. "(Kaddoumi) informed me of the latest developments in the Middle East and expressed the hope that we in south Africa would succeed in curbing the violence and that elections would take place on April 27 next year as envisaged," Mr. Botha said. "I, on my part, congratulated the PLO on the agreement recently reached with the Israeli government, and I expressed the hope that the process leading toward the satisfaction of the Palestinian people's aspirations would be concluded successfully," he added. He warned, however, against "the radicals in the Middle East who, like in south Africa, will try to scuttle the peace process." Mr. Botha was also received Tuesday by Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, before holding a second working lunch meeting with Mr. Ben Yahia.

Saudis open up \$100 credit for Lebanon

RIYADH (AP) — King Fahd has ordered the allocation of \$100 million in credits for the Lebanese government to help with its post-war reconstruction plans, the official Saudi Press Agency reported. The announcement was made following a meeting Monday between the Saudi Arabian monarch and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who is a frequent visitor to the kingdom where he has residence. Official sources, meanwhile, said that the Saudi embassy in Beirut, closed down after an attack in 1984 by a pro-Iranian crowd, would be reopened within three weeks. Those who set fire to the embassy then claimed they were not being granted visas for the annual Hajj to Mecca. The sources, who spoke on condition they not be identified, said that the Saudi ambassador to Syria, Ahmad Al Kaheem, was named as ambassador to Lebanon. Mr. Kaheem will be replaced by Abdul Mohsen Al Balaa who is currently ambassador in Oman. Saudi Arabia is a leading donor for the Lebanese reconstruction efforts and has already extended some \$400 million in direct aid. Additionally, there are private donations as well as widely growing private sector investments in the country.

Jordan, Iran discuss starting tractor factory in Kingdom

AMMAN (Petra) — Iranian Deputy Minister of Heavy Industries Mahdi Mufidi Wednesday discussed with Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal the prospect of setting up a joint plant in Jordan to manufacture tractors and cooperating in other agricultural areas.

The Iranian government was ready to provide facilities to Jordanian investors to help establish this joint project in the country, said Mr. Mufidi at the meeting attended by his delegation and senior ministry officials.

In outlining the Iranian tractor industry, Mr. Mufidi said that Iran established its first tractor factory 25 years ago and the surplus of the products were exported to several Arab and foreign countries.

Iran is also willing to create companies and set up workshops for the maintenance of tractors manufactured through the joint efforts, said Mr. Mufidi.

Referring to trade between Iran and Jordan, Mr. Mufidi said the Iranian government was willing to provide Jordanian importers with Iranian products sold at very competitive prices.

For his part, Dr. Kamal voiced Jordan's keenness on bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector.

The minister said he hoped that he and his Iranian counterpart would discuss further scopes of cooperation in agricultural fields during a regional conference to be organised in Amman next April by the Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Referring to the tractors, the minister said that there was a possibility of marketing Iranian tractors through the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO).

Automation experts recommend creating regional instrumentation services centre

AMMAN (I.T.) — An expert group meeting on automation and microprocessor controls ended in Amman Wednesday with a nine-part set of recommendations.

The recommendations include:

1. Encouraging government policies to support the automation efforts within the country.

The government actions should be based on surveys which should be updated regularly.

Organising support, in aspects of restructuring and selection of appropriate automation, to individual enterprises planning to apply automation, from universities, research centres and relevant government agencies.

2. Promoting the establishment of new or strengthening of the existing instrumentation services centres.

The instrumentation services cover, among others, training of operators and

maintenance personnel; repair and maintenance; instrument data bases; consulting; calibration and standardisation; design and development of special instrumentation systems, etc.

Promoting the establishment of a regional instrumentation services centre which will be linked to other centres in member countries.

3. Organising training programmes in basic skills related to instrumentation: microprocessor applications and related software, mechanics, fine mechanics, hydraulics, pneumatics, electromechanics, electronics, glass-blowing, etc.

Organising specialised training programmes in the field of automation and process control, repair and maintenance of environmental monitoring equipment, biomedical instruments, microprocessor-based instruments, etc.

4. Encouraging and supporting the universities of the

region to undertake the following:

Carrying out industrial surveys.

Organising specialised training courses for the industry.

Providing consulting services to industry.

Arranging continuing education for the engineers working in the industry.

Encouraging the universities, other higher education institutions and industries of the region to release their staff members for fixed-time leaves to industry under a "Faculty Development Plan."

5. Making use of the already completed feasibility studies which indicate the existence of a large regional market and investigate the feasibility of manufacturing electronic parts and equipment, and particularly control systems, in individual and/or regional groups of countries.

With this regard organising investment promotion activities.

6. Assisting countries of the region in creating technical and technological instrumentation databases to help them to make optimum selection and purchase of instruments.

7. Promoting the exchange of automation, process control and instrumentation-related information between the countries.

Conducting an overall survey of the application of automation and microprocessor controls in the region with particular emphasis on industrial applications.

This survey should constitute the first step in a series of activities aiming at the formulation of a strategy for the development of local and regional capabilities in automation and microprocessor control applications.

8. Supporting private companies designing, manufacturing and servicing instruments and developing related software through technical assistance projects and programmes, including provision of equipment, training and expertise.

9. Promoting co-operation in the related fields and also through implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, among the countries of the region.

Finally the experts recommended aiming cooperation and coordination between international bilateral and multilateral organisations providing technical assistance in related fields.

The three-day meeting organised jointly by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), was at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Engineering and Technology.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday sets the cornerstone of the new Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) building in place at Yadoudeh (Petra photo).

Crown Prince sets cornerstone for new YMCA social service centre

AMMAN (I.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday set the cornerstone for the main building of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) at Yadoudeh and said he hoped that the project would offer social and charitable services to various sectors.

Expressing delight at the commencement of the project, the Crown Prince said the complex reflects the Jordanian people's orientation towards pursuing acts of charity under favourable and adverse circumstances. At the ceremony, attended by about 200 people,

Prince Hassan said he was happy to contribute morally to this "vital project" and congratulated the YMCA on its pioneering role in charitable and voluntary work in Jordan.

The new complex will not only serve as a centre for social services and a hostel for young people, but it is hoped that it would be utilised as a cultural and humanitarian centre to offer shelter to displaced people, said the Crown Prince.

"We need to remind the world that Jordan and the Jordanian people are quite capable, culturally, of serving as a model for other nations in

charity and voluntary work," continued Prince Hassan.

Noting that the start of the project coincides with Jordanian people's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, Prince Hassan said that he was determined to follow up on the YMCA progress in the implementation of this project.

YMCA Board Director Raouf Abu Jaber addressed the ceremony, thanking Prince Hassan and outlining the YMCA's evolution and activities in Jordan.

Premier meets with visiting Turkish army chief

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday received Lieutenant General Dogan Güres, chairman of the chiefs of staff of the Turkish armed forces and reviewed with him Turkish-Jordanian relations and discussed the Middle East peace process.

The prime minister explained the Jordanian stand vis-a-vis the Middle East questions and its demand for a just and comprehensive peace.

Later Lt. Gen. Güres was received by General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabaneh, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and discussed the general situation in the Middle East region. Gen. Kaabaneh outlined the contributions of the Jordanian Armed Forces to the work of the U.N. peacekeeping forces and discussed with the Turkish chief military cooperation between Turkey and Jordan, particularly in the field of training personnel.

Lt. Gen. Güres also later listened to a briefing on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Princess Basma receives Mrs. Güres

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday received Mrs. Elfer Güres, wife of Lt. Gen. Dogan Güres, at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) in Amman.

During her visit, Mrs. Güres was briefed about the development projects and programmes QAF implements through its community development centres throughout Jordan.

Mrs. Güres, who was accompanied by Mrs. Muzaffer Charpan, wife of the Turkish military attaché in Amman, showed great interest in QAF's economic development projects, in particular the ceramics production and training centre.

Princess Basma and Mrs. Güres discussed possibilities of cooperation between Turkey and QAF for this and similar projects.

Following this visit, the guests visited the Nuzha Community Development Centre which was established by QAF and is run by the Jordanian Save-the-Children Federation.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday meets with Lieutenant General Dogan Güres (centre) chairman of the chiefs of staff of the Turkish armed forces, who was accompanied by Mehmet Ali Irtimçelik, Turkish ambassador to Jordan (Petra photo).

They were introduced to the health clinic, a kindergarten, training and education programme that feature a children's club as well as a ramme for women.

Majda Roumi looks across to the international stage

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Although Lebanese singer Majda Roumi considered her performance at the 1986 Jerash Festival as the beginning of her regional and international musical career, she announced Wednesday that she will not participate in future Jerash Festivals.

"Jordan gave me my chance to shine, which Lebanon would have given me if we had peace, and I think as long as my heart beats I will stay loyal to this country (Jordan) and its people," which I consider the birth of my successful career," Ms. Roumi said addressing an open session packed with fans and reporters at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

"It is like a feast for me every time I meet you (Jordanians) because you pushed me a step forward. But my role in Jerash is over, and it is time to give a chance to new singers to prove themselves at the festival," she said.

Ms. Roumi said she wishes to see the Jerash Festival expand to meet the international level in the near future, rather than remaining limited to Arab and national performances.

Referring to the quality of contemporary Arab songs Ms. Roumi said, "I encourage all singers to sing about important issues... related to their culture and literature and to maintain high quality Arab songs by introducing good music, performances and lyrics with deep meaning."

A major concern of Ms. Roumi's career was singing national songs, which, she said, some individuals confused with politics.

"Some individuals explain my songs as being political rather than national."

"I only sang for my country (Lebanon), and I am proud of being Lebanese and singing the song 'Libnan Sayed Hur Moustaqil' (Lebanon, Independent and Liberated)," Ms. Roumi said.

Born in Sour, the mother of two daughters said her marriage does not clash with her



Majda Roumi career like most people would speculate.

On the contrary, Ms. Roumi maintained, "my marriage is the guarantee to my success and accomplishing my dreams, and my husband supports me all the way."

The Lebanese vocalist praised the role of Arab women artists and said that women are treated with respect these days.

"Time will prove that the women's role in the society is changing and becoming more important," she said.

Ms. Roumi said that the turning point of her career was when she sang at the Palais de Congrès in Paris in 1991 and again in 1993.

"It was the first time I felt I expanded across the Arab borders, and that people in France appreciated my singing."

Furthermore, she added that she hoped in the near future to produce something new in Arabic songs, as well as sing in other languages which should enable her to carry Arabic lyrics across the borders to the international level.

"Reaching the international audience is something I wish for myself and all Arab singers."

"I dream of an Arabic song that will help me introduce a new and different atmosphere that will express the ambitions and dreams of Arab youth," Ms. Roumi mused.

Majda Roumi will give a one-night concert this evening (Thursday) at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Princess Basma inaugurates special education centre

ZARQA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday inaugurated the Othman Ben Affan Society Special Education Centre which is financed by the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief.

In expressing her delight over the establishment of the centre, Princess Basma said the facility embodied close cooperation and coordination among non-governmental and charity organisations which care for handicapped persons in Jordan.

The Princess voiced Jordan's appreciation to the Swedish organisation and paid tribute to the Othman Ben Affan Society for its efforts in caring for the handicapped.

According to society sources, the Swedish organisation will cover the centre's operational expenses in the first year, 75 per cent of the cost of the second year, 50 per cent of the third year and 25

per cent of the fourth year.

The Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) has helped the society to secure the services of four Ministry of Education women teachers to provide training to handicapped students at the centre, said the sources.

QAF, in cooperation with the Swedish organisation, will provide staff training and administrative and technical supervision of the centre, the sources added.

The society said that it can currently accept 24 students aged between five and 12 years who suffer from mental disabilities or cerebral palsy.

These students will be placed in four separate classrooms and their training will be strictly supervised by specialists, added the source.

Apart from training in skills that will enable handicapped children to adapt to the requirements of daily life, the

source added, the children will have physiotherapy sessions and will be provided with a daily lunch and transportation to and from the centre.

Princess Basma, who toured parts of the centre, was briefed on the facilities and services. She presented commemorative shields to the Swedish ambassador to Jordan Christian Bausch and representatives of the Swedish organisation and social development ministry officials.

The Princess received a token gift from Abdul Haj Tillawi, president of the Othman Ben Affan Charitable Society.

Mr. Tillawi said that the society has been providing financial and in-kind monthly assistance to 1,000 needy families.

The society has also been paying part of the education of needy students at Jordanian community colleges and universities and running health clinics in Zarqa.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Intisar Qaddurah at the Jordan InterContinental Hotel.
- ★ Art exhibition (drawing on mirrors and glass, and ceramics) by women engineers at the Jordan Engineers Association.
- ★ Art exhibition by plastic artist Anwar Haddadin at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Alia' Al Shanti at Ab'ad Art Gallery — Mecca street.
- ★ Exhibition of lithographs by a number of artists at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of coins at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Fahmi Al Qaysi at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ibrahim Al Nashashibi at Baladna Art Gallery (Gardens Street).
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Rakan Dabdoub

at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

- ★ Art exhibition by a number of artists at the Student Affairs Deanship Building at the University of Jordan.
- ★ The Palestinian embroidery exhibit at the Royal Cultural Centre (daily 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Futun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luwibdeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.).

AUTO SHOW

- ★ Auto show 1994 at the Amman International Auto Exhibition.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "Innerspace" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Video film in English entitled "Matisse" at Darat Al Futun of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luwibdeh at 5:00 p.m.

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1977

الصحف اليومية الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department

Experiment worth preserving

THE POLITICAL tremors that are rocking Yemen these days risk undermining not only the fragile unity of that country but also the cause of Arab unity. When Sanaa and Aden opted to unite the two sides of Yemen three years ago, that generated hope that Arab unity was not so elusive or impossible after all. The rejoice over the Yemeni unity in the Arab World was so overwhelming that it signalled the beginning of a fresh era that promised broader Arab unification.

Several attempts to unite the Arab countries in the past four decades were short-lived and triggered an atmosphere of scepticism about the reality of Arab unity. The Iraqi-Jordanian unification in the late fifties was brought to a premature end with a bloody takeover by the Iraqi military. Cairo and Damascus also attempted to forge a solid unity between them in the early sixties but that effort which received much Arab acclaim was aborted when a coup in Syria brought it to an end. North African Arab states made a series of endeavours to unite themselves under various formats but they all proved unsuccessful. The Arab Gulf countries, however, succeeded where the other parts of the Arab World failed. Yet even the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) experienced difficulties over territorial disputes between Saudi Arabia and Qatar that threatened its viability and durability.

Against this dismal record of Arab unity, the Yemeni unification seemed for a while to offer new opportunities for real and profound Arab unity established after much dialogue and proper study. That is why the current rift in Yemen between north and south came as a big setback to all Arabs who pinned high hopes on the Yemeni initiative to show the way for effective and lasting Arab unification. His Majesty King Hussein was among the first Arab leaders to respond to the Yemeni crisis by making timely mediation between the two factions that govern Yemen not only because Jordan and Yemen enjoy a special relationship but also because the cause of Arab unity is at stake.

In retrospect, it is just possible that the daring Yemeni attempt to forge unity suffered from the same basic shortcomings of all previous Arab efforts. As long as political institutions and the level of pluralistic democracy in the Arab World remain where they are at this late hour, it would be difficult to conceive of a durable and successful Arab unity. Unity in contemporary times requires a minimum degree of political sophistication and development. There was a time in the past when unity was attainable by sheer power as when German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck did to unite Germany in the 19th century. In the modern era, it would seem more operational to proceed with unity step by step and only after attaining a minimum level of pluralistic democracy and human rights. Still, the Yemeni precedent should be preserved even though its shortcomings may still call for urgent rectifications. The fact that a crisis has occurred prompts one to conclude that deepening the roots of Yemeni unity, has rather than destroying them, become an urgent priority.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DESPERATION seems to have driven the Israelis and the Arabs towards the negotiating table to try to reach a peace formula for the Middle East conflict, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. Ahmad Al Misseb said that the Israelis are desperate and frustrated because after five wars with the Arabs they still have no legitimacy for existence in the eyes of the Arab Nation. The Israelis feel that their unity remains an alien object in the region and one that is being hated and confronted by the whole Arab Nation, said the writer. He said that the Arabs are also desperate because they feel impotent in the face of the formidable Israeli military machine. The Arabs have failed so far to force Israel to give up occupied land and deal normally with the Arabs, said the writer. He asked what kind of peace can come from two desperate sides. Will it be a peace of the brave on one that stems from frustration and despair? The writer said that the Israelis will no doubt continue to resort to understand and deceptive means in their dealing with the Arabs and therefore no genuine peace can ever materialise.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily suggested that the Palestinians demand compensation from Israel for its very long occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Before the Madrid conference, Palestinian institutions prepared studies which revealed the magnitude of benefits which the Israelis stood to gain from their occupation of Arab lands for all these years, said Mahmoud Rimawi. The writer said that the Israelis have pillaged the Palestinian water resources and looted and destroyed the Palestinian economy and are still imposing heavy taxes on the Palestinian people in a bid to force them to flee their homeland. At the same time, the Israelis still obtain compensation from Germany for their losses during the Nazi rule and World War II, said the writer. Why, he asked, cannot the Palestinians demand appropriate compensation for their own heavy losses from occupation and the repression they had faced all these years.

Democracy, elections and the will of the people

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

Much of the criticism I have heard this past week of the Kingdom's parliamentary elections stems, it seems to me, not so much from the election process itself as from people's misconceptions about democracy. The more people I speak with the more aware I become of the discrepancy between what democracy is and what people in our society think it is. Of course, democracy is not a fixed object, say a table or a window, whose proportions can be measured accurately. Nor does it have a universally acceptable model, politically speaking, applicable to all nations and at all times. Nevertheless, democracy has its own distinct features, despite its varied forms. Whether one is talking about American democracy 200 years ago, American democracy today or British democracy versus French democracy, one can easily pinpoint democracy's essential premises and assumptions and can easily distinguish between what is democratic and what is not.

"If I had a son who were unemployed, I would choose a kinsman or a friend who would help employ my son over a candidate who promised Arab solidarity, equality of opportunity and economic prosperity. Needs come before ideals."

A few days ago, I was debating the outcome of parliamentary elections with some friends, many of whom happen to be fairly highly educated. They were upset, they said, by the "obvious" lack of "objectivity" in voting. Their argument ran as follows: Our citizens are unprepared for democracy yet and are therefore unqualified to vote. The sole incentive behind the ballot they cast is either allegiance to the tribe or pure self-interest. No one seems to care about the nation's larger concerns, aspirations and ideals. Deep down, nobody bothers to elect the "right" person, unlike in Britain, America or Sweden. Who votes his/her true conscience in our society? Where is democracy?

This argument is to me objectionable for the following reasons: First, it is obviously the talk of elitist intellectuals. Most intellectuals, especially those who are not affiliated with party politics and ideologies, are idealists. They are obsessed with aims and pursuits too unattainable and abstract for the majority. Additionally, their sense of the democratic process is most often theoretical, far-fetched or unrealistic. What seems important to the majority may not seem important to them. General-

ly, they are unhappy with and alienated from both the politicians and common people — the two most fundamental components in any democratic experience. Whatever is done in the political arena never seems to satisfy them. Theirs is a utopian democracy which never materialises. The problem is then in their angle of vision, not in the democratic process.

Second, such reasoning is immensely belittling of and unfair to the conduct of the Jordanian voters. A careful look at the results of the last two parliamentary elections reveals that our citizens have in fact shown a significant degree of altruism, integrity, discretion and independence of mind. When they voted for the Islamists (whom they naively thought represented Islam, not individual political parties) and the leftists, four years ago for example, they believed they were doing the nation, not their egos, a favour. The motto "Islam is the solution" was, and still is, a cherished ideal for the majority; the same goes for many of the leftist slogans about freedom, equality, opportunity and human rights. When the electorate felt that many of the Islamists and leftists (whose performance was being watched carefully) failed to either fight for or deliver the promises they were so lavishly articulating during their campaigns, it did not vote for many of them a second time. If this is not a responsible exercise of a democratic privilege, I do not know what is.

Third, tribal allegiance is not incompatible with democracy. We have to remember that democracy is neither a system of consensus nor of iconoclastic individualism, but of power groups. In no democratic society can individuals function effectively alone. They must join a group of some sort (an ethnic group, a religious group, an interest group) if they are to have a serious say in any matter.

In our society, the tribe is essentially a power group. How different is it, ultimately, from the Jewish, Hispanic, Asian American and Arab American lobbies in the U.S.? Like all of these, it lends support to its members (who else protects the individual in our society when he is in real need or trouble?) and it, in turn, demands absolute loyalty in election time. Do not such lobbies expect, nay demand, of members to vote for a certain candidate? Personally, I do not feel that tribal voting (though I do not belong to any tribe) is either undemocratic or necessarily bad. In fact, knowing that the tribe is the oldest and most indigenous political body in our culture, I expect its authority to prosper and continue to surpass that of any political party in the days ahead.

Fourth, self-interest is part and parcel of the democratic system. Since its birth in

Greece, democracy has come to cater for the needs of the common person. No matter how altruistic human beings are, their main concern is with their immediate problems and goals, which are primarily personal. The relationship between the voter and the candidate boils down in most cases (even in America, Sweden and Britain) to the famous saying: "If you wash my hand I wash yours." Why did the average American (the man in the street) vote George Bush out of office? Did not the latter give America two victories, in the collapse of the Soviet Union and in the Gulf war, which it had perhaps never dreamt of? Bill Clinton's promise of employment and a less substantial medical insurance bill at the end of the month triumphed (in the common man's mind) over the ideal of American strength and greatness. This is democracy. If I had a son, I would choose a kinsman or a friend who would help employ my son over a candidate who promised Arab solidarity, equality of opportunity and economic prosperity. Needs come before ideals.

"In our society, the tribe is essentially a power group. How different is it, ultimately, from the Jewish, Asian American and Arab American lobbies in the U.S.? Like all of these, it lends supports to its members and it, in turn, demands absolute loyalty in election time."

The parliamentary elections we have just had are democratic. Democracy is not utopia. In any society, the majority (which is the cornerstone of the democratic process) is not composed of poets, artists, philosophers, scientists, university professors and other intellectuals, but of workers, drivers, mechanics, civil servants, teachers and students whose wishes, hopes, aspirations, and even ideals, are often as humble as their daily needs. Democracy is a reflection of the will of the latter, not of the dreams of the former.

The writer is an associate professor of American literature in the English Department at Yarmouk University, Irbid. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

With friends like these, democracy needs no enemies

By Safwan Bataineh

JORDANIAN voters seem to have unleashed a spate of irrational anger in some otherwise temperate commentators. They, the voters that is, had apparently voted for the wrong people. Or was it that the right people were "excluded" because the voters could no longer (under the new Election Law) spare them their third nor ninth afterthought endorsement? I could not tell what the pretext for this anger was, but one commentator was clearly miffed when the opposition, defined exclusively as the "ideological opponents of the regime," failed to gain enough seats to, presumably, topple such a regime.

The opposition, thus defined, was further identified as the old underground leftists and the Muslim Brotherhood. With a rather undemocratic disregard for the people's choice, this writer laments the setback suffered by the left and the Islamists in this election. The reason given is that the articulation of protest is essential for the progress of the democratic experiment.

Fair enough. But it is beyond me why a well-informed and thoroughly modern person who is not affiliated with either group should find the setback of fundamentalist clericalism, diarch communists, and generally quarantined minds, to be counterproductive. Could it be a case of my enemy's enemy is my friend? More interestingly, is it not possible for parliamentarians who were always loyal to the constitution and to the head of state to articulate the aspirations of the people who voted them in and provide the essential voice of opposition? I hear it is done fairly well just that way in other, more famous, democracies.

Had this expression of pent-up misanthropy been an isolated case, it would not have merited a response. But it is part of a recent flurry of spiteful misrepresentation of Jordanian achievements, performed by native writers with misplaced allegiances and calculated to discredit Jordan and belittle its nationhood.

This campaign threatens to poison the environment surrounding the inevitable upcoming debate over minorities' rights and power-sharing in a heterogeneous democracy; a debate that has been suppressed for over forty years because of the presence of a larger concern — the struggle against Israel. Ever since the PLO recognised Israel on Sept. 13, it had become meaningless and counterproductive to continue to defer a necessary national dialogue.

There are people from all parts of the national tapestry who are not interested in a mutually acceptable resolution of the dual (even multiple) nature of the national identity (which can best be reached through a managed process of evolutionary fusion). They are gearing up for a possibly destructive clash of identities. Hopefully, we will learn quickly the lessons of democratic coexistence. Social cohesion can be defended only by the people and only if citizens assume full responsibility for

their actions and recognise their civic duties.

What concerns me here, however, is the daunting impact of irresponsible and inaccurate portrayals on the self-confidence of the Jordanians as they doggedly pursue their brave and ambitious instincts and build durable institutions for progress. Never mind that these writings, many of them in English, can distort our image abroad. The Jordanian progress march was never for show. It is their danger on public morale and perceptions that we, the people, should guard against.

Two assertions in particular should be answered forcefully and conclusively: the first, a maddeningly irrational one, concerns the fairness of the new Election Law; the second, borne out of inexperience, deals with the nature of opposition in a democracy.

The Election Law remains unrepresentative and consequently unfair even after the useful recent amendment, but for reasons which are entirely opposite to those given by our angry commentator. It is not a case of the "protest votes" being underrepresented in this election. Quite the contrary, the votes of the "opposition" won it more representation than any similar number of other votes. For example, the Islamic Action Front received 16 per cent of the popular vote but gained 20 per cent of the seats in Parliament. And if you add the votes of the other Muslim Brotherhood candidates, the figures become 17 per cent and 23 per cent respectively.

But the potential degree of disproportionate representation is far more severe and will become a reality in future elections once tactical mistakes are corrected. The basic flaw of the law is that it gives the largest organised group contesting the election (be it a party, a minority or an association of brown-eyed people) an undemocratic opportunity to sweep a majority of parliamentary seats with a fraction of the popular vote. This is true regardless of how many votes a citizen is allowed to have.

Had this election been contested by as many candidates as in 1989 (300 more than in this campaign), the Islamic Action Front, the largest group contesting the election, would have certainly gained an additional eight seats as the votes dispersed more widely. The numbers would then be 16 per cent of the popular vote and 30 per cent of parliamentary seats. Alternatively, had the IAF received an additional 30,000 well-distributed votes (just 4 per cent of the popular vote), all thirty six candidates would have made it to Parliament. In fact, had the IAF been able to distribute the votes it actually received amongst its candidates more accurately, these votes would have been sufficient to carry all thirty six candidates.

For these potential scenarios not to become realities in the next elections, something must be done about reducing the degree of dispersion in the votes. The introduction of a system of proportional repre-

sentation, the ultimate democratic election method, would be an even better alternative.

The assertion that the introduction of the one-person, one-vote system constitutes a manipulation of the election results or that such a modification can by itself be used as an instrument to exclude any candidate or party is pure noise. Under the old Election Law, the same 16 per cent of IAF voters could have elected 66 of their party's candidates to Parliament (83 per cent of the seats). In Zarqa, for example, IAF voters could have fielded the six candidates and given each 25,000 votes, more than enough to collect all the seats in the district. Where on earth can you find a more ridiculous election system? Imagine what would have happened if Americans had two votes each in the last presidential election. Since Democrats and Republicans are unlikely to give their second vote to each others' candidate, Ross Perot would have won the election on the strength of the spare votes even though he was the real choice of only one-fifth of the electorate.

The issue of the opposition is becoming a very complicated one. The initial decision to allow the political participation of groups and individuals who are ideologically opposed to constitutional democracy has created a dilemma for other participants. They find themselves forced to side with the government of the day in parliamentary battles or risk helping the Muslim fundamentalists in their drive to expunge existing norms and values.

This dilemma is bound to undermine democracy in the end. As people come to regard the loyalists as lackeys of the government, the protest votes against increasingly unmonitored and underperforming governments will swing in larger numbers to those ideologically opposed to the regime. The loyalists will then grudgingly become even more protective of the government, driving more voters away. The outcome of this vicious cycle is predictable. The opposition and the regime will eventually become mutually exclusive, just as our commentator says they are.

Such an eventuality must be prevented by strategic decisions regarding the structure of democracy in its formative stages. In the meantime, parliamentarians who are loyal to the regime must be helped to focus on the monitoring of government performance. One way to do this is to effect a strict separation between the executive and legislative branches, at least until party politics becomes the dominant factor in Parliament.

Liberal intellectuals and writers can make their bid in support of democracy. Not by crying over reactionaries who are at odds with both democracy and the voters, but by providing honest and positive ideas to help the democratic process along.

The friends of democracy should remember what this thing is all about: majority rule. So, when in doubt, consult the people.

Arabs determined to keep boycott against Israel

By John West
Reuter

CAIRO — Most Arabs see the economic boycott of Israel as their last big bargaining chip and are determined to keep it in place, Arab politicians and businessmen say.

Israel and the United States have been pushing hard for an end to the 45-year-old boycott since the Jewish state signed a peace agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in a spectacular ceremony in Washington in September. But Arab governments, including Israel's old peace partner Egypt, have stuck fast to the position that normalised trade is a political decision linked to progress in Israel's remaining peace talks with Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

And many Arab businessmen back them. For wide sectors of public opinion, doing business with Israel is one of the most emotive issues left in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Many are afraid Israel's high-technology \$60-billion economy will dominate the fragile and protected economies of its neighbours and that after five meetings on the battlefield, Israel will finally conquer the Arabs by trade.

"Calls for a Middle East market now are the second

stage of foreign attempts to undermine Arab nationalism... The Middle East market is meant as an alternative to joint Arab action," said Adnan Omran, a senior Arab League official last week.

"(It) is like laying down our weapons when you are confronted with a fierce enemy who masters the art of lies," he told the Syrian newspaper Tishreen. Arab officials have replied to U.S. pressure by saying Washington is the leading exponent of using boycotts and trade embargoes as a political weapon.

Paradoxically, only the Palestinians seem keen on business with Israel. The occupied territories depend almost totally on Israel's job and consumer markets and Palestinian leaders say economic cooperation with Israel must continue for some time if they are to generate the growth they need to make Palestinians accept the peace agreement.

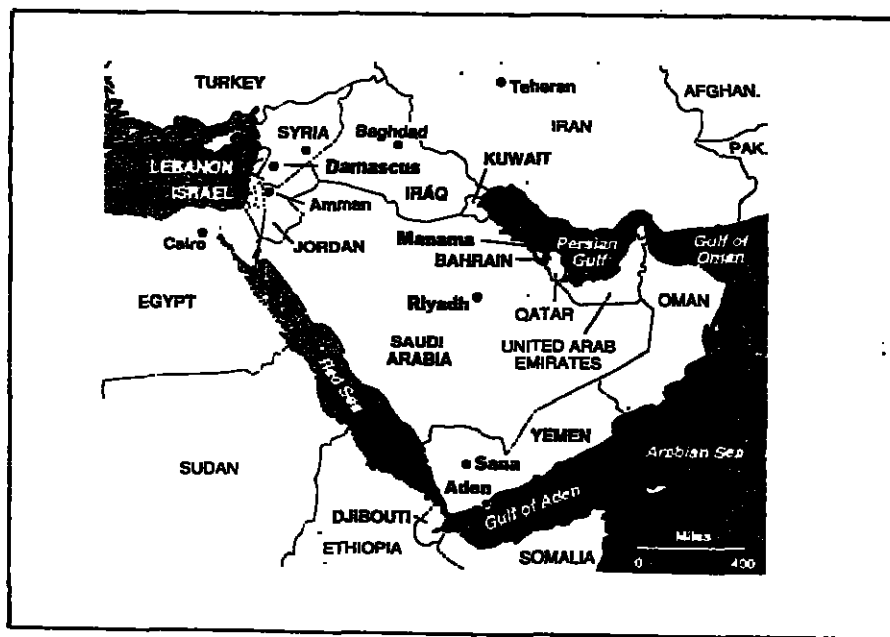
PLO leaders told a group of executives from Israel's Koor industries who came to Tunis to discuss setting up a joint holding company that the time was not right now. But they did not rule it out.

"We want to do business with people that are strong. The Israelis are strong and it's better to be the partner of strong Israelis than poor people," said one PLO economic expert.

Syria and Lebanon hold out strongly against any change, saying Arabs can only lose. Leading businessmen say they are content to follow their political leaders.

In Jordan, trade normalisation is one issue in this week's elections. Muslim fundamentalists, Arab nationalist and leftist candidates have vowed to fight it.

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"Normalisation, starting

with the economy, aims at opening up lifelines to Israel and allowing the aggressor to live at the expense of the Arabs," leftist candidate Fares Nabulsi told a cheering crowd at a rally.

Gulf states likewise have also been ultra-cautious although Arab diplomats said they now take a slightly more relaxed view of the secondary boycott imposed on firms trading with Israel.

Israeli goods such as sham-

poo, telephones, toys, and fruit have been spotted in Arab markets, usually shipped by traders from third countries like Cyprus. But Israeli officials say trade with the Arab World probably adds up to only a few tens of millions of dollars at best.

"Dealing with Israel is a political decision. But even if the country allowed traders to deal with Israel, I believe 80 per cent of them will have reservations," one Bahraini

businessman commented. "It might take them many years before they start trading with Israel," he added.

Washington echoes Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's call for a quick opening of Arab markets and a group of American Jewish businessmen have toured the region telling Arab leaders the boycott, and American laws prohibiting it, drove away multinational companies interested in investing in Arab states.

But talk of a Middle East common market remains far off. Even Egypt, which made peace with Israel 14 years ago and which has been actively mediating between Israel and the other Arabs, shows little enthusiasm for boosting the current trickle of trade.

Apart from sales of Egyptian oil stipulated in their peace agreement, bilateral trade is worth only about \$15 million a year, most of that in the agriculturally sponsored field of agriculture and irrigation, where Israel is a world leader.

Official Egyptian-Israeli talks in June led to the designation of Misr Iran Development Bank as a correspondent for Israel's bank Hapoalim, but a senior official at the bank last week said there had been no transactions so far.

How the cultured see recent elections

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

By Mohammad Masharga

How do intellectuals in Jordan assess the recent parliamentary elections and their results? In order to answer this question, one has first to realise the fact that the creation of a cultural movement and cultural groups in Jordan has always been linked to the influence of ideological and political movements in the Arab or foreign countries. Likewise, the vast educational progress witnessed in the Kingdom over the past few decades came as a direct result of the desire to meet the educational requirements of the Gulf countries. In other words, most cultural circles in Jordan have emerged as a direct result of or in interaction with cultural, political or intellectual developments and activities in Cairo, Baghdad and Damascus. Similarly, this can be applied to modern poetry, story writing, art, architecture and other fields. For this reason, one can say that there was a clear margin separating these cultural movements in Jordan and the actual local community's needs and reflections. The absence of a Jordanian environment and other social influences marked the Jordanian story writing, and art; an idea agreed on by most literary writers in the kingdom. Acting from this assumption, one can understand the rock and bitterness that characterised the reaction of

the Jordanian intellectuals to the election. Indeed, the intellectuals have found themselves facing tribally-dominated parliamentary results, totally alien to the concept of modern society.

Writer and adviser at the Ministry of Education Mona Shugir considered the parliamentary election results as a kind of revival of the spirit of tribal society which she said ran contrary to modern trends of the modern society and therefore served as a setback to social development.

The liberals view the results as a regression to the pre-political era and one totally oriented to affiliation to clans and tribes.

The liberals see the results as a vote not for the state, which was created to take the place of the primitive societies, but rather to the tribal society. In the view of the intellectuals the clan or tribe has always been the basic cornerstone for socio-political life as consecrated by the regime to ensure continued political stability in the Kingdom.

The intellectuals say despite all the efforts towards demographic changes and beliefs, the results have regrettably shown that nothing has been changed in the traditional status quo.

The leftist liberal movement blames the state for the regression and the delay in the process of change in social development and for failing to enhance the people's sense of belonging to the state and civic community. They say that the past five years offered the

state a good chance for introducing the desired change through legislations, laws and regulations that would have transformed the social and political life of the Jordanian society into a modern civil society.

Dr. Ahmad Abu Hilal from the University of Jordan attributes the present status quo to the absence of industry in its modern concept because he says it forms the basis for the modern state.

Mr. Hilal believes education should be promoted because it would foster loyalty to the state. He says he is not referring to that kind of education which students obtained in the hope of securing a position in the private or the public sectors.

Some intellectuals interpreted the gains made by the Islamic Movement as some form of protest by the public for the many socio-economic failures and an escape to spiritual values. Indeed the spiritual values dominated the minds of those who have no clan or tribal affiliations, and they are people who mainly come from the poor urban districts and refugee camps.

Playwright Elias Farkouh in Al Ra'i Arabic daily that the term "citizen" is related to the civic society which normally raises and educates a person fostering the concept of a nation in its universal sense.

The situation that dominated the elections in Jordan brought some pessimism to the hearts of many intellectuals some of whom expressed their despair, saying that they have witnessed a retreat from the idea of a homeland.

Indeed, Jordanian poet Yusef Abdul Aziz was quoted as saying that writers, poets and other literary men feel they have no particular homeland.

Iyad Qattan, another liberal intellectual cautions his colleagues by saying one should not pass hasty judgement. He says those who won on tribal tickets represented the cream of the clans, and at the same time the elections resulted in the failure of certain traditional figures from reaching parliament house again.

Mr. Qattan believes that the election behaviour was somewhat progressive and represented a high level of awareness among the clans and the bedouin tribes in Jordan.

Mr. Qattan also believes that the leftists and the liberals have failed to understand the Islamists position noting that the Islamists have built their base among the workers, the poor, the youth and the grassroots and not the desperate factions as it has been rumoured about them.

Mr. Qattan believes that the Islamists became the main rivals of the leftists by basing their confidence in the grassroots and by presenting a socio-economic and even political programme to the downtrodden classes.

Mr. Qattan expects the representatives of the clans and tribes in the new parliament to group together and present their own social and political programmes vis-a-vis other groupings from other blocs and other programmes in Parliament.

Disabled experience the thrill of speed

By Care Pedrick

GIONE, Italy — Roberto Bertoli was a painter and decorator when, six years ago, he fell from some scaffolding, plunging nearly 100 feet to the ground. Bertoli, then 31, was paralysed from the waist down in the accident. Since then, his life has changed dramatically. He is the first to admit that he is determined not to let his handicap defeat him. He is finding solace in unlikely activities — motor-racing. It's hard getting used to driving this car, as I have an automatic at home," he says, as he is lifted from his wheelchair into the driver's seat of a powerful white BMW coup on a race-track in Umbria, 150 miles north of Rome. A few moments later, he is in the driver's seat, a minute pedal from his rictor, and Bertoli is racing around the track at 100 kph. Bertoli is one of a dozen disabled people racing today. All of them are disabled — some are victims of accidents, like Bertoli, others are disabled since birth. They are confined to wheelchairs in their everyday life, but here on the Magione circuit, they are as competitive as any able-bodied driver.

Regazzoni, the world famous Formula One driver who became a paraplegic after a horrific crash 13 years ago, when his brakes failed just before a hair-pin bend at the Long Beach circuit in California. Regazzoni, now 54, refused to let his handicap beat him, and within a short time, he was back in the driving seat, his Ferrari converted to manual controls. "After a certain period of rehabilitation, I began driving again with manual controls, and I realised that I could drive very safely, even at high speed, just as I had done before," said Regazzoni. "I had my car converted — all my old Ferrari that I had thought I would never be able to use again — and I began driving them again, taking part in competitions."

Regazzoni's experience convinced him that more should be done to enable other disabled people to feel the thrill of the race-track and to set themselves new challenges. Together with another sports champion who lost the use of his legs in a sporting accident — Italian Olympic gold medalist Luca Pancalli — Regazzoni launched the Rome-based motor-racing school for the disabled. There were major hurdles to be overcome. Regazzoni, who is Swiss, had no difficulty in obtaining a license to drive fast powerful cars. But in Italy, where laws were weighted heavily

against the handicapped, disabled people were barred from driving all but the smallest vehicles — cars so small as Regazzoni puts it, "that you couldn't even fit a wheelchair in the back." They were also barred by law from practicing any kind of sporting activity.

After a long battle waged by FISAPS, an organisation for the promotion of motor sports for the disabled, of which Pancalli is president and Regazzoni vice-president, the law was finally changed. In March this year, disabled drivers were given the right to take part in motor-racing.

Since scoring that major victory, Regazzoni's school has never looked back, establishing a name for itself and attracting a growing list of sponsors from the world of motor-racing. Applicants are chosen after undergoing a medical test to prove they are in a fit condition to withstand the rigours of the race-track. Next, they are assembled at the school's headquarters at Vallelunga. Here, and at the other circuit at Magione, the pupils are given detailed briefings, taught the theory of how to drive fast and safely, in normal and in wet conditions, how to handle emergency situations, how to get out of a car before it bursts into flames.

Then, kitted out with helmets and flame-resistant suits, the drivers are intro-

duced to their vehicles, a fleet of gleaming BMWs, all of them converted so that the accelerator, brake and clutch can be operated by hand. Advances in modern technology have made it possible for cars converted to manual controls to be driven at high speed, says Regazzoni. "One drives a car principally with one's head," said the racing driver, who won five Formula One Grand Prix and took part in 132 before his accident in 1980. "The pedals of the car are simply the instruments to get the car on the move. The operations performed in a car with one's feet can be substituted by hand controls. And contemporary Formula One, using modern electronic driving systems, proves it."

These days, Regazzoni prefers saloon car racing. He is just back from Florida where he took part in a gruelling 12-hour race against more than 100 other drivers, all but one of them able-bodied. "I do more or less everything I did before my accident," he said. "I am virtually 100 per cent independent."

For Regazzoni the biggest barrier is the psychological one, and in this sense the motor-racing school has an important role. "Our pupils are people who want to experience the thrill of high speed, learn how to drive fast and well, and who also want to get out of the house for a while," said the racing driver. "Some of them want to go on and drive at a competitive level, but most just want to learn how to drive better and more safely in their everyday life. We've found this course gives an enormous psychological boost too. It helps the pupils feel more independent and more like everyone else."

Added Pancalli: "When we are in a car, there are no barriers. In a car, everyone is seated. The only thing that is different is the way in which we drive. We want to advance from the four wheels of a wheelchair to the four wheels of a car." Pancalli, 29, was 18 when he fell from his horse during trials for an international equestrian competition in Vienna. He was part of the national Italian junior modern pentathlon team and one of Italy's most promis-

ing young sportsmen. The fall paralysed him from the waist down, but, like Regazzoni, Pancalli refused to abandon his passion for sports. He took up swimming, and in 1984 won five medals, two gold and three silver, at the Olympics for the Disabled in Los Angeles. A year later, he went on to win a silver and a bronze for fencing at the European Championships. At the Seoul Olympics for the Disabled, in 1988, he won three gold medals, a silver and a bronze.

Both Pancalli and Regazzoni put in regular appearances at the motor-racing school, where the courses last three days. But the training and briefings are in the hands of two former Ferrari pilots, Roberto Lippi and Christian Del Balzo. Said Del Balzo: "One very important objective is to give these people a series of days out, doing something completely different. In their normal lives, they get down-hearted, partly because everyone is nice to them. Here, that's not the case. We treat them like everyone else and they feel equal. You can see the difference after just a short time. Some of them come back to see us because they felt good here."

After each round of laps, carefully timed by the two instructors, the drivers are given an assessment of their performance. They are told frankly where their faults lie, and how they could improve their technique and increase their speed, without sacrificing safety. The most promising drivers will be selected to go on to train at a higher level, with a view to taking part in competitions. "It's very good because you are stimulated by each other, in a friendly way," said Renato Bertoli, who lives in Brescia, in northern Italy. Like many of the pupils, Bertoli would love to take his new hobby further, he says. Like many, he has traveled several hundreds of kilometres to take part in the training programme.

Evaristo Sartor, 36, from Treviso in northeast Italy, was paralysed in a road accident 17 years ago. "I've always been mad about driving," he said. "You might have thought my acci-

dent would have stopped me, but it hasn't. On the contrary, I may have had to change my lifestyle, but I will keep on driving, and I want to get better at it." In his everyday life, Sartor drives a small Golf converted to manual controls. "I would love to drive in competitions," he says, as he is strapped into the powerful BMW ready for his first run of the day. Seconds later, his name is called and he zooms down the track, picking up speed as he puts all his effort into improving on the previous day's performance.

Ugo Bontardelli, who has been handicapped since birth, has always followed Formula One racing on television and in the newspapers. He decided to enrol for the driving course after having a car crash a year ago. "I came off the road and ended up in a field," said Bontardelli, who is training to be a lawyer. "Miraculously, I came out without a scratch, but I was very scared. After that, I thought it would be a good idea to do this course to improve my driving. It's a fantastic experience driving on a race-track. There is nothing to get in your way."

At 46, Laura Coppa is one of the oldest of the pupils on the course. She is also the only woman. Nothing daunted, Coppa, who had polio as a young girl, cannot wait to get behind the steering wheel for another go after her first



Handicapped from birth, Ugo Bontardelli has learned to manoeuvre his car like a professional driver

round of laps earlier in the morning. For Coppa, who comes from Rome, this is her second course. And she is already thinking ahead to her goal of doing some rally driving at competition level. "When I told my children I was going to enrol in this course, they thought I was crazy," said Coppa, smiling broadly. "I was terrified the first time I got into the car — I'd never driven anything

nearly as fast or powerful before. But I wouldn't have missed it for the world. It's an enormous personal satisfaction," she added. "There are some things in life that we simply can't do, and we have to bear that with a shrug of the shoulders and accept it. But this is something that really makes us feel equal to everyone else" — World News Link.



Former Formula One driver Clay Regazzoni, who managed a driving school for the disabled after a car crash 13 years ago, manages a driving school for the disabled



At 46, Laura Coppa, who had oldest pupils in the racing school, polio as a child, is one of the and is the only woman

By Diane Duxton
The Associated Press

The difficulties of trying to restrict violence on TV

WASHINGTON — The Congress seems intent on passing a law to restrict violence on television, but proponents of the First Amendment are betting no such law will be enacted. The courts won't allow it, says the American Liberties Union and television networks say, nevertheless, the bipar-

isan momentum in Congress for legislation to reduce violent TV programming is strong.

Eight bills have been introduced. They range from a requirement that TV sets be manufactured with a computer chip that could be programmed to block violent shows to a mandate that the Federal Communications Commission

make reducing TV violence a condition of television station license renewal.

One or a combination of them is likely to start moving toward enactment at the beginning of next year.

Attorney General Janet Reno told the Senate Commerce Committee recently that several of the bills would pass constitutional muster. But she acknow-

ledged later that she was not familiar with all the case law, so the Justice Department is continuing to review the subject.

The concern is and always has been that TV violence causes the real thing, particularly among young people. Supporters of the legislation say the courts have allowed restrictions to protect children and point

to limits on indecency. But indecency is different, say first amendment advocates.

It has been specifically defined as references to excretory functions and sexual organs. Although a ban on such talk has been rejected by the Supreme Court, the broadcast industry has generally accepted that it should be restricted to be-

tween 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. Violence, however, has never been defined by law.

And even if it were, lawmakers see some violence on television as beneficial. News shows, for example, would be exempt from restrictions and "good" violence, such as war dramas or depictions of brutality designed to deter such behaviour, also would be all

right. Lawmakers oppose "happy" violence, which is akin to slapstick, and sensationalistic or gratuitous violence.

But imagine the questions the FCC will have to ponder if a law is passed. Would it be acceptable to show a woman shooting a rapist in self-defence, but not a mugger shooting an innocent victim?

How much spilled blood would be needed to illustrate the horrors of war without being gratuitously gory?

The National Coalition on Television Violence defines violence as "the deliberate and hostile use of overt force by one individual against another."

Using that definition, would a drama about the American Civil War be allowed on the air when children might be watching?

Electronic calendars, diaries and telephones

By Jean-Claude Elias

Of all the applications that can run on a personal computer (PC), the so called "utilities" group are the least painful, the most pleasant to use. Probably because we do not really depend on them or do not consider them as vital programmes.

Software designers have realised, since the PC's early age, that users need, apart from large databases, complex calculations sheets or sophisticated word processors, a set of simple, yet helpful tools that each and everyone normally has on his or her desk.

A calendar, a calculator, a small clock, a note pad and a telephone set are as important as oxygen to all those who sit behind a desk for a few hours each working day.

The concept of a completely paperless office was introduced in 1982-1984. Though never achieved till now, abandoned by some, the dream-like idea still exists in the mind of a few. The PC utilities, or accessories as they are sometimes called, are but a small part of this utopia.

SideKick and Windows both provide an efficient group of often neglected utilities. SideKick is a dedicated programme and does nothing else. Windows offer them as one of its groups. Within Windows they are called "accessories".

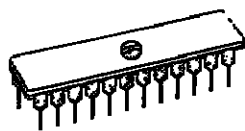
What the user first gets is a perpetual calendar, allowing him to consult, on the screen, at high speed, any day of any month of any year, whether past, present or future. It is obviously more powerful than any wall or book calendar, usually limited to one or two years. For speed, Hot-Keys are available. These are keyboard keys that are quickly pressed from within any programme and that can instantly call any of the said accessories.

The computer calendar is a very interesting feature. It is fast, easy to use, has no equivalent on paper and virtually doesn't require data entry from the operator.

The second item is a calculator. Again, here we have a very practical software tool. Before your very eyes, displayed on the monitor, is a well designed, colour calculator, as complete as the most expensive Japanese hand held model. It can work in a scientific way or a simple "super-market" way. You can also select the standard decimal system or the binary and hexadecimal systems for the professional programmers.

The third item is a diary, linked to the calendar. You can use it to record your appointments and it will make it a point to remind you of them. You can choose between different "alarm" modes: PC buzzer, music (if your PC has a sound card) or a flashing display that doesn't let you ignore it. As attractive as it sounds, such

chip talk



a system still requires the user to enter a lot of data. How do you expect your computer to "ring" you for an appointment if you don't tell it about the appointment in advance? Though some portable machines now have voice recognition, relieving the operator from tedious keyboard typing, most people still note their appointments on solid paper.

Another utility item is the clock. Simple for there is no data to enter. One can choose between the analog shape (you know, the one with the antediluvian hands) or the modern-age digital one. As clever as this can be, I personally prefer to look at my wrist watch. I find it expensive to use a JD 2,000 PC to give me the time.

Last but not least is the telephone and address directory along with its automatic dialer. This is probably the most useful of them all. Once one has been past the initial effort of entering the names and numbers, the result is very rewarding. Instant, fast search of numbers knowing the names, continuous indexing and sorting by name or by any field you want, all are possible and easy to run operations. Provided the PC is connected to a telephone line, the utility can also automatically dial the telephone number for the operator, just by pressing one key. One can also obtain a hard copy printout of the file containing the names and numbers.

All those who have to re-arrange and copy their telephone book once or twice a year can benefit from this accessory.

I would easily do without the diary and the clock, but not without the calendar and the telephone book. I use the calculator just because it is here.

SideKick and Windows are not the only programmes equipped with such facilities. Lotus and other software developers offer similar functions. Lotus Organizer for instance, is a comprehensive programme that processes not only appointments but also global schedules. The beauty of the SideKick and Windows accessories however lies in their simplicity.

The shadow of the man he used to be

By E. Yaghi

During his younger years, Younis always took excellent care of his health. He ate the best of food and never smoked cigarettes or drank any alcoholic beverages. However, one day when he complained of a nagging pain in his side, he decided to see a doctor. The news he received, changed his whole life and his complete way of thinking.

Because he was a successful merchant and a conscientious father, he always provided the best care for his many children. Nothing was too good for them, whether food, schooling or warm clothing in the winter. He usually managed to have at least one milk cow, some hens and at times, even a goat or two. Hence, there was an abundance of fresh laban, milk, and eggs. His plot of land occupied several dunums and often after work, he would spread out a blanket under his olive and fruit trees following a hard day's effort in an attempt to relax by ordering his wife to serve him tea, coffee and fruit. At least one of his younger children sat beside him relating adventures at school or with friends.

At first, Younis built a modest room to live in for the time being with the prospect of later enlarging his living quarters to accommodate his growing children and even grandchildren. Later, when his sons went to America for education or business, he found himself alone and bored so one spring day he announced to his mother, "You know what? A man needs to change his woman every 10 years. I've been married for thirty years. I deserve a transformation!"

Shortly after, Younis carried out his promise to marry and he chose for his bride, a girl younger than his own daughters. He held a big wedding party in the midst of his olive and fruit trees one sunny summer day and invited all his relatives. He was quite proud that he was marrying for a second time and boasted of his accomplishments to any who would listen. But in spite of the fun, he observed from the corner of his eye that, naturally, his first wife failed to overjoy herself during the ceremony and that she seemed to be trying her best to fight back tears of bitterness and envy, for she now must share her kitchen, home and husband with another female.

Some years passed and Younis soon had three more children to add to the previous number from the first wife. His life though, proceeded much the same and he trained the second wife to take over the first one's duties of milking cows, tending chickens, caring for goats, making fresh bread and learning to behave like an obedient spouse whenever he hollered for her to serve him. He sent his oldest son from wife number two to the

same school that he had sent his older ones, and he always took precaution once more that his young children had the best food and clothing that he could buy. He even built a very nice home so that his new children could live in it when they grew older. And then it was that suddenly, when life seemed at its fullest, he learned that he only had so much time left to live.

"How can this be?" He asked himself as he sat in his garden after receiving the bad news. "All my life and work have been for my children. But, actually, I've never enjoyed the fruit of my labour enough. I have sacrificed all my youth and even myself to provide for my children, and now all at once, before I've really had a chance to relax and take things easy, it's all over! It's like some kind of a game. I get tired, work my head off, and never take the time to really enjoy life's every moment. I've lived in one room all my marriage so that my children could enjoy something better. But I forgot about myself completely. Did I really take a moment just to stop and stare at life? Did I ever look up at the stars and notice how bright they are or how minute man is? Did I ever try to possess each minute and live it to its fullest, or was I like a chicken, just scratching in the dirt for nothing?"

And now, he went on to ponder, which of his sons that he worked so hard for, would be there when he died, or which one would even care? How cruel life is, how short, how irrelevant! But as he fretted, his youngest children ran and hugged him and limbed all over him to shower their father with kisses. He looked down into their innocent faces of baby joy and happiness and moaned to himself again: "Who will take care of them when I'm gone and who will be responsible for them? They are but babies. Once I was so eager to marry but I never thought I would not live to see my small children grow up. How ironic life is after all. It's all just a joke, and for nothing! It's all so futile. I never even enjoyed the golden days of retirement. I only worked myself into the grave without ever even realising it."

Poor Younis has lost over 20 kilos. He has become a shadow of the man he used to be. More often than not, the majority of his days are filled with physical pain and mental bitterness for he has so much to live for and it is so hard to die and even harder to wait for death. At least one consolation is that he moved into his new apartment with his small children so that he will have more comfort in his last months of life. It is finally occurred to him that truly, man takes only his deeds with him to his grave and everything else, friends, children, wives and money, stay behind for the living to fret upon, fight over and worry about.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Nov. 18

8:30 Coach

One For The Road

It's wedding bells for Haydn and Christine! But wait: In which church would the wedding take place? And where is the priest?

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

A father puts an end to the life of his adopted son, because his son had committed a string of killings, both at home and at school. What would the jury find him?

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Pack-in' It In

Starring: Richard Benjamin and Paula Prentiss

Today, many people ask themselves: What will it be? Living in the city and putting up with life there? Or move out into the wilderness and enjoy nature? In this light-hearted movie, a husband and wife with a couple of friends search for the answer.

Friday, Nov. 19

8:30 E.N.G

Two For The Show

Anne's millionaire friend takes over Channel 10. The question is now: Would Mike retain his post of the head of the News Department? Or would Anne take over?

9:30 Faces And Places

Faces And Places this week tackles the ugly face of cancer. How to recognise its early symptoms, and what is the latest in scientific treatment?

10:00 News In English

10:20 Blackheath Poisoning

Isabelle is to hang for the two murders she committed. But her friend Paul believes she is innocent. Would he be able to find the real murderer and save Isabelle's life?

11:10 Yes Minister

The Bed Of Nails

The deputy prime minister tries to convince the minister to drop the idea of laying down the foundation for a totally new transportation system.

Saturday, Nov. 20

8:30 The Fannelli Boys

Father Smoke

The Fannelli house turns topsy-turvy when a beautiful charming guest from Sicily comes to stay.

9:00 Da Beat's On

9:30 Perspective

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Criminal Behaviour

Starring: Farrah Fawcett and A. Martinez

A diligent female attorney starts with a simple case of robbery which transforms into a huge criminal plot.

Sunday, Nov. 21

8:30 You Bet Your Life

Bill Cosby returns this week with new contestants for the grand prize of \$10,000.

9:10 ThirtySomething

Never Better

As Suzanne is in New York for work, Gary has to take care of their daughter by himself — with a little help from Ellen.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Legacy

China

In search of the Chinese legacy, we travel from Buddhist Monasteries, down the Yellow River, to China's most sacred mountain and 254th birthday celebrations of Confucius.

11:10 The Golden Palace

One Old Lady To Go

To save an old woman from ending up in a home for the old, Rose offers the old lady a room at the hotel... with lots of T.L.C.

Monday, Nov. 22

8:30 Delta

Delta's boss is chosen to participate in an auction to "save the children"... and to Delta's disappointment he ends up dancing with someone else.

9:10 The House Of Eliott

While Evie is enjoying being courted by both Hugo and Sebastian, Beatrice's own emotional life is put into turmoil... as a man she knew before unexpectedly comes back into her life.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Chancer

Sacrifice

In this final episode, all loose ends are waiting to be tied up. Will Dex take on the gangster Roman who is after Anna? And what will Dex do, now that he realises he is a single parent?

Tuesday, Nov. 23

8:30 Night Court

Contempt Of Court

During Judge Stone's leave on vacation, Christine is jailed after a row with Judge Stone's replacement.

9:10 Brand New Life

I Fought The Law

Barbara is in court defending Laird for unjustly receiving a driving ticket. Later she fights the system to help the wrongly-accused violators.

10:00 News In English

10:20 From The Classics — Camille

Starring: Greta Garbo and Robert Taylor

Wednesday, Nov. 24

8:30 Head Of The Class

Cold Turkey

The students of Philmore School celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends... except Mr. Moore who finds no one to celebrate with.

9:10 Documentary — Miracle Of The Scarlet Salmon

A documentary about the salmon fish, its 6,000 mile journey a year, and how sea pollution kills thousands of them every year.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Bestseller — Contract For Murder

Faith starts a new life with her man Marcos and off they go to Spain... but the police never abandon their search for her.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

WOMEN

- ★ A beautiful woman pleases the eye, a good woman pleases the heart; one is a jewel, the other a treasure.
- ★ An ugly woman who paints her face is like a mushroom which cannot be eaten before it is properly prepared.
- ★ Women are never old as long as they retain their curiosity and their inquisitiveness. When a woman has lost her interest in gossip and scandal, she is already dead.
- ★ There are no ugly women; there are only women who do not know how to look pretty.
- ★ The modern woman gives the husband the honeymoon and takes the rest of the life for herself.
- ★ Strange is the love of woman: It's like one's beard — the closer one cuts it, the stronger it grows — and both a plague.

★★★★★

SAY IT IN ARABIC

COMMON PHRASES

- He has a stiff neck. *Innah u'need.*
- I know. He's not worth his salt. *Ana adri. Howa adeem el-naf.*
- He's been mistaken. *Lakad akhta'a.*
- Forgive him for my sake. *Samiho min ali khatri.*
- I can't do that until he comes to his senses. *La astati' an af'ala zalik hatta ya'ooda ila sawabihi.*
- He'll do that, I assure you. *Saya'al zalik bi'ta'keed.*
- Don't poke your nose in others' affairs. *La tatadakkhal feema la ya'neek.*
- Give him another chance, please. *Aateebi forsa thaniya, minfadlik.*
- Don't ruffle my feelings. I'm run down. *La todayekni. Ana morhaq.*

HUMOUR

- ★ A man climbed up a ladder. Unfortunately, however, he slipped and fell. He lost consciousness as he hit the ground and the first thing he did after coming round was to ask: "Is the ladder all right?"
- ★★★★★
- ★ TEACHER: Jack, why are you late for school every morning?
JACK: When I come to the crossing I see the words: SCHOOL — GO SLOW!
- ★★★★★
- ★ NICK: Ann, give me your pen, please.
ANN: And why don't you want to write with your pen?
What's wrong with it?
NICK: It makes so many mistakes!

AMAZING FACTS

- ★ It's possible to make a boiled egg roll round on its ends, but impossible to do that if it is fresh.
- ★★★★★
- ★ The elite in the island of Malta speak English and Italian while the majority of the inhabitants there speak the Maltese language which is a mixture of both Arabic and Italian.
- ★★★★★
- ★ The bird known as "the king's hater" has a thin-coated egg through which one can clearly see things as if it were exactly a mirror.
- ★★★★★
- ★ Snow, like flower crystals, gather on the Swiss lakes as a result of the condensing air which is saturated with humidity in the absence of wind.

★★★★★

PUZZLES

HEADS & TAILS

First of all see if you can find the nine-four-letter words represented by the pictures below.
When this has been done write them down below the other in such a way that the name of a European city can be spelt by taking the first and last letters alternately. For example, if the words illustrated were GATE, BELL, ARMS, and DECK, the word DEARB would be obtained thus: DECK, GATE, ARMS, BELL.



هنا من الجول

Romance, not sex sells books — Barbara Cartland

By Paul Majendie
Reuter

LONDON — Dame Barbara Cartland became the world's biggest-selling author without ever resorting to writing about sex.

She has now started her own international club for readers determined to put romance back into their lives.

At the age of 92, she is pausing briefly for breath before embarking on her 591st book. "I think we should have a party for number 600, don't you darling," she enthuses.

Writing up to 8,000 words a day, the "queen of romance" shows no signs of slowing down. Asked if she would like to die with a pen in her hand, she replied: "Good lord, no. I hope

someone's arms will be reaching for me."

Her latest passion is the Barbara Cartland Romance Club for the legions of fans who write the larger-than-life figure up to 30,000 letters a year.

New members get a specially bound two-novel volume, an audio tape of another novel, a signed photograph and letter from the great dame and a gilded leaf from an ancient oak tree planted by Queen Elizabeth I in Cartland's country house garden in 1550.

"We have been talking about doing this for ages. We must make people read. If old people don't read, they go ga-ga," said Cartland in an interview that covered everything from vitamins to second honeymoons.

Famous for her pearls,

fluttering eyelashes and masses of floating pink chiffon, Dame Barbara is on a one-woman crusade to put romance on top of the agenda in everyone's lives.

In her gushingly theatrical voice, she insists: "You must have a second honeymoon every year. That is one way to keep your husband in love with you."

"Forget the children. Leave them with granny. Go away. Have lunch and then make love for hours and hours in bed," she said.

She herself never takes her own readers under the duvet.

"Sex has to be spiritual as well as physical and your brain comes into it too. It's not just your body. You cannot describe it. You cannot even use the word 'ecstasy' as that's a drug now."

A British newspaper once asked her to read a book by

Jackie Collins, famed for her raunchy bestsellers about Hollywood. It was a mistake.

"I read 15 pages. It was absolute filth. If you read that stuff, you get perverted," she said with a snort of distaste.

Dame Barbara won her place in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's best-selling living author for sales that have topped 650 million.

She also won in the "most prolific author" category for writing up to 23 books a year. Her books have been translated into 30 languages.

The muse never deserts Dame Barbara who dictates her books to a team of devoted secretaries. "I find it works if I say a prayer after each book and say: 'Please God give me a

plot'."

New horizons are being conquered all the time.

"I have just got into China in a big way. In European books, the Chinese take out the sex all the time. I am the only one they don't touch."

"In the Gulf war, the Arabs printed 10 Barbara Cartlands and asked for another 10 and wanted women to read them as I am pure."

Her fan mail ranges from the surreal to the fanatical. "I have a man who rings me and says God told him to look after me until I was 100. Another man writes me 60-page letters every day."

"My only reward is when people write and say they are so much happier after reading my books. One man who lived in the back end of Australia sent me his

mother's bracelet and I am wearing it now."

In Cartland romance like *Love Is Heaven* or *Kiss For The King*, bride go to the altar as virgins and their handsome grooms always seem to be rich.

The glamorous young novelist received 49 marriage proposals before choosing printing magnate Alexander McCorquodale in 1927. It was not a happy match. They divorced after six years, leaving Dame Barbara to bring up her daughter Raine, now best known as stepmother of Britain's Princess Diana.

Dame Barbara's books inhabit a fairytale kingdom but they strike a chord around the world. Asked for her recipe for success, Dame Barbara concludes: "I talk about real love. No one talks about real love now."



Dame Barbara Cartland

Stroudsburg, Pa. crossing the ocean with the charms of Forever Plaid

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

LONDON — There's a problem of translation for a little musical charmer from America called *Forever Plaid*, starting with the title. If you called it "Eternally Tartan," it might be more accessible.

"That's really how they would get it here," cast member Larry Raben said of the title, which is translated in the programme. Never mind that the word came from Scotland in the first place.

Not that a crossbarred textile design is the sum total of plaid: As Stuart Ross's engaging show points out, plaid is as much "a state of mind" as a pattern — a throwback to an era when material, and music, were simpler, more endearing and ever so slightly gauche.

Those are exactly the qualities of *Forever Plaid*, a

salute — and send-up — of the harmonising male crooners of the 1950s and '60s who were killed off by rock 'n' roll.

In the musical, the four Plaids are killed in a 1964 road accident by a bus full of fans headed for New York to see the Beatles on The Ed Sullivan Show.

The Plaids get a reprieve, coming back to earth from the hereafter for a London concert 29 years later.

The concept is as corny as the show is sweet. Both seem to have survived the trans-Atlantic crossing. Jack Tinker in the *Daily Mail* said "only a curmudgeonly chump could not succumb to (the show's) open-hearted fun."

Malcolm Rutherford in the *Financial Times* saluted "a really good-natured show that you cannot fail to enjoy."

The musical opened on Sept. 28 at the Apollo Theatre on the West End. The cast, all of them mak-

ing London debuts, is the original foursome who opened the show off-Broadway four years ago: Guy Strouman, Stan Chandler, David Engel and Raben.

Since then, co-producer Gene Wolsk's \$150,000 investment has become a formidable money-spinner, grossing "over \$28 million worldwide," Wolsk said. Of that, he said, more than \$4 million is profit.

Wolsk's British partner, Laurie Mansfield, saw *Forever Plaid* in four North American cities and decided to gamble on a London run.

"The '50s are very fashionable here," said Mansfield.

"In America, it was the decade of the teenager; everything was escapism," Doris Day, Rock Hudson, he said. "If you present that on stage, that nostalgia bank is enormous in the U.K. This show taps into that."

The genuine enthusiasm

of the opening-night audience testified to the show's appeal, as the cast crooned its way through some 30 songs, from *Three Coins In A Fountain* to an elevator-style rendition of the Beatles' *She Loves You*.

The often reticent British gamely joined in when required. Jane, an unwitting Englishwoman in the front row, got up on stage to try her hand at *Heart And Soul* on the piano. She received a Plaid-covered package of dental floss for her efforts.

Smoke, bubbles and the sudden appearance of palm trees — none of them in the more modest off-Broadway production — all get applause.

"We were told even before we started that a British audience is much more reserved, but we're getting crazy laughs here on things that didn't get anything in the States," said cast member David Engel.

"They hold a lot in and at the end go even more

nuts."

References have been changed to protect the culturally unaware.

A line about the Stroudsburg, Pa., K-Mart is now the Allentown Safeway. "People know the Billy Joel song (Allentown)," explained Engel. An earlier allusion to Magnavox has been changed to the generic TV.

A comment about the "Osteriser School of Harmonic Theory" is now the "Osteriser Electric Blender School of Harmonic Theory" lest, said Raben, audiences get confused about "some demented East German."

Budgeted at \$825,000, the show could recoup its cost during the American cast's 16-week contract if business is good. (A British cast would then take over on Jan. 31).

This London version marks the sixth concurrent *Forever Plaid*. Other stagings are due imminently in

Tampa, Fla., and Johannesburg, South Africa.

But the West End entry faces a stiff fight from more widely publicised musicals: Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard* and a highly acclaimed revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*, among them, and such neighbouring revues as *Hot Stuff*, *A Slice Of Saturday Night* and the long-running *Five Guys Named Moe*.

The performers, in the meantime, are taking London's rain and damp in stride.

"It's kind of nice to have weather again," said Engel, who lives in Los Angeles. But the 34-year-old had more pressing matters to consider, such as the group's Nov. 15 Royal Variety performance before Queen Elizabeth II.

Was he worried about the etiquette? I guess they're going to instruct us. Anyway, I'll give her hand a good ol' shake."

Thoughts for this week

Life is like an overlong drama through which we sit being nagged by the vague memories of having read the reviews — John Updike, American author (1932-).

History is simply a piece of paper covered with print; the main thing is still to make history, not to write it — Otto Von Bismarck, German statesman (1815-1898).

All history is only one long story to this effect: men have struggled for power over their fellow men in order that they might win the joys of earth at the expense of others, and might shift the burdens of life from their own shoulders upon those of others — William Graham Sumner, American sociologist and economist (1840-1910).

It is well known that the most radical revolutionary will become a conservative on the day after the revolution — Hannah Arendt, American philosopher-historian (1906-1975).

Results are what you expect, and consequences are what you get — Anonymous.

In the time of your life, live — so that in that wondrous time you shall not add to the misery and sorrow of the world, but shall smile to the infinite variety and mystery of it — William Saroyan (1908-1981).

To think is to speak low, to speak is to think aloud — F. Max Mueller, German philologist (1823-1900).

If you live long enough, you get accused of things you never did and praised for virtues you never had — I.F. Stone, American journalist and author (1907-1989).

Godzilla — still stompin' after all these years

By Seth Sutel
The Associated Press

TOKYO — What's big, loud, vaguely reptilian and vents its spleen by pulverising Japanese cities?

If you guessed Godzilla, Japan's favourite radiation-mutated building renovator, you're right.

Godzilla will be doing what he does best when *Godzilla Vs. Mechagodzilla*, No. 20 in the series, hits Japanese screens on Dec. 11.

After 39 years, Godzilla has his job description down pat: Get across town to battle some other horrific mutant beast, and crush everything in your way. Reckoning that if the monster ain't broke, don't

fix him, Godzilla's creators tend to stick to the same formula for every movie. Director Takao Okawara says about 80 per cent of each film's material — the story, special effects, set designs — is carried over from previous films.

"We tried a slight alteration in Godzilla's voice in the last film but we got a lot of letters from angry Godzilla fans, so we changed it back," Okawara said, referring to "Godzilla Vs. Mothra."

The incredible staying power of this simple formula has drawn nearly 80 million viewers to movie theatres and made the 330-foot (101-metre) fire-breathing behemoth one of Japan's few world-famous cultural icons.

Longtime fans will be in for something completely new next year when Tristar Pictures releases the first made-in-U.S.A. version of *Godzilla*. Casting and other details are under wraps, but whiz-bang special effects are likely to replace the campy fake city models treasured by fans and ridiculed by the unconverted.

Despite their continuity, the films have evolved somewhat since the original 1954 classic, *Godzilla*.

The early films dwelt heavily on Godzilla's mutation — because of a nuclear experiment gone awry — from a garden-variety dinosaur into a destructive terror. The idea induced special terror in Japan, the only nation to have experienced atomic attacks.

Later movies shifted from the anti-nuclear message to other themes, such as genetic engineering and threats to the environment.

These days, *Godzilla* directs his wrath at the modern, garish buildings that epitomise Japan's aesthetically numbing dash into industrial affluence.

Godzilla has laid waste many an eyecore in recent years: Tokyo's Gothamesque, \$1.5 billion City Hall; Yokohama's space-aged waterfront; and Makuuri Messe, a sterile convention complex east of Tokyo.

But the monster means well, says Toho publicist Masahiko Suzuki: "He's not cruel. He doesn't hurt people, just buildings. It's just like a kid at the beach who builds sand castles and

destroys them — just on a larger scale."

In his latest incarnation, to the potential horror of many viewers, *Godzilla* stomps into the ancient city of Kyoto, a rare urban refuge of traditional charm. He growls at Kiyomizu-Dera, one of Japan's most famous temples, but leaves it unscathed.

Audiences sigh with relief, then cheer with vicarious pleasure, as with one blazing breath *Godzilla* wipes out Kyoto Tower, a modernistic mushroom-shaped blight on the city's skyline.

"His purpose is not random destruction," says special effects director Koichi Kawakita. "He seeks out places where man has remolded nature."

"Say a huge building goes up in your neighbourhood. Paid for with your tax

money. It's ugly and blocks your TV reception. You'd love to rip it to shreds, but

you can't," he says. "That's where *Godzilla* comes in."

Test your knowledge of Godzilla

1. Who played the radio reporter sent from New York to give live coverage of Godzilla's destruction of Tokyo in the original 1954 movie, *Godzilla*?
2. Which musical instrument is used to make Godzilla's trademark howl?
3. Does Godzilla have children?
4. Godzilla has faced 23 adversaries of all shapes and sizes, but only one managed to get the best of him. Who was the adversary and what was his weapon?
5. What are the origins of Godzilla's name?

Answers

1. Raymond Burr.

Goya exhibit opens in Spain before travelling to London and Chicago

By Michael M. Phillips
The Associated Press

MADRID — Looking at the world through the eyes of Francisco De Goya can be a very disturbing experience.

But his often apocalyptic outlook has intrigued some to the point of obsession. Legend has it that phrenologists, anxious to examine the bumps on the Spanish painter's cranium, spirited Goya's skull from his Bordeaux grave after his death in France in 1828.

Now art aficionados in three countries have a less

extreme way of getting into Goya's head at the exhibit *Goya — Truth And Fantasy*, which opens on Nov. 18 at the Prado Museum before travelling to London's Royal Academy of Arts and the Art Institute of Chicago next year.

It will be a close-up view at what may be the most complete gathering ever of the smaller works — the cabinet pictures, sketches and miniatures — of a man famed for his jolly country scenes, incisive portraits and nightmarish images of war and spiritual degradation.

Visitors "have a chance to come into incredibly close contact with works and groups of works of various different kinds — from... sketches to highly finished small paintings — by one of the greatest and most intelligent artists who ever put brush to canvas," said British curator Juliet Wilson-Bareau.

Most of the 100-odd works that will be on display are no larger than a brief case. Some are as small as billboards.

Among the featured items are seven coarsely sized copper discs that

Goya, born in 1746 in the village of Fuendetodos, gave his son Javier as a wedding gift in 1805. Each disc has an oil portrait of a member of the bride's family, plus one of Javier.

The exhibit will also include most of the 12 cabinet pictures that Goya completed in 1794, after an illness left him deaf, disillusioned and disinclined to work solely on the portraits, tapestry cartoons and other decorative pieces commissioned by the court of Charles IV.

The series depicts, among

other subjects, an attack on a coach, a prison, and a scene from a madhouse, hints of the dark side of Goya's vision that blistered to the surface in the hellish "Black Paintings" of 1820-23 on display elsewhere in the Prado.

When he completed the series in 1794, Goya wrote to the Royal Academy of San Fernando: "I have succeeded in making observations for which there is normally no opportunity in commissioned works, which give no scope for fantasy and invention."

The last phrase gives the

exhibit its Spanish title — "Goya: El Capricho Y La Invenccion" — which the curators transformed into "Truth And Fantasy" for the English version.

The exhibit staff have gathered works from collections around the globe, cleaning and restoring those that have been darkened or damaged by the years. "Some of the pictures that have come for this exhibit... were so black that you could hardly see the subject," said Ms. Wilson-Bareau.

The cleaning process has in itself added intrigue to

the exhibit, revealing content and meaning previously hidden by layers of varnish.

In one preparatory painting — a 1788 sketch for a painting in the Valencia Cathedral showing unsavory elements waiting at the deathbed of an impenitent sinner — cleaning revealed a larger-than-previously-thought number of demons in the wings.

Another series of paintings, showing scenes of rape, murder and a shooting in a military camp, was thought to date from 1808, when Napoleon Bona-

parte's forces occupied Spain.

Cleaning showed that the works date from about a decade earlier, indicating the grimness of Goya's outlook even before the fighting that inspired his bleak "Disasters Of War" etchings.

"Expert cleaning has revealed to a spectacular extent what is going on in these pictures," Ms. Wilson-Bareau said.

The exhibit closes at the Prado on Feb. 15. It will run in London from March 18 to June 12 and in Chicago from July 16 to Oct. 16.

U.S. health workers battle disease hitching ride with immigrants

By David Foster
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The patient, a 68-year-old Vietnamese refugee, couldn't speak English. Dorothy Byas couldn't speak Vietnamese. So they traded nods and smiles as Byas handed the man six pills and watched him struggle to swallow them, one by one.

"I can communicate with anybody," Byas said later, outside the man's apartment. "As long as I show them warmth and that I'm there to help them, they feel it. So far, I haven't met anybody I can't relate to."

That's no small feat, given her job at the multi-cultural front line of the war against tuberculosis (TB), a contagious disease now making a deadly comeback in the United States.

Byas is a tuberculosis outreach nurse, and her patients reflect the changing face of an old disease. During a recent day's work, all but one of her 14 patients

were immigrants — four from Vietnam, three from Cambodia, and one each from Tibet, Laos, the Philippines, Mexico, Ethiopia and Somalia.

Ten years ago, TB was considered a scourge of the past, vanquished in America by modern antibiotics. But now, after decades of decline, it is on the rise, due in part to the growing number of immigrants who carry the disease from countries where it still is common.

Health officials consider it a serious threat. A chronic bacterial infection that usually strikes the lungs and spreads through coughing and sneezing, tuberculosis was the nation's No. 1 killer in the 1800s. Worldwide, it still kills more people than any other infectious agent.

Last year in the United States, 26,673 cases of active TB were reported, a 20 per cent increase since 1984, according to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC). Twenty-seven per cent of those 1992 cases were among foreign-born patients, the CDC says, and states with large immigrant populations report even higher percentages. In Washington, 46 per cent of all the state's TB cases last year occurred among immigrants. In California, 61 per cent, and in Hawaii, 83 per cent.

Immigrants are not the only cause of TB's resurgence. The cramped quarters and unsanitary conditions of poverty play a role, and the disease also has become a leading opportunistic infection striking AIDS patients.

In some areas, particularly New York and other eastern cities, the main worry now is the spread of new multidrug-resistant strains of TB that develop when patients stop taking medicine before it completely kills the infection.

But immigrants present a

special challenge, as health officials struggle with language and cultural barriers to find active TB cases and cure them before they spread to the general population.

In California, where undocumented aliens from Mexico have contributed to a statewide 54 per cent rise in tuberculosis since 1985, the state runs an office of border health and conducts TB screenings in migrant labor camps.

In Hawaii, officials inspect chest X-rays of every legal immigrant.

"Because we're an island, even one case can be catastrophic," said Dr. Azucena Ignacio, head of Hawaii's TB Control Programme.

In Washington an experimental project targets young Hispanic men in jail, screening them for TB and then following up with preventive care once they're on the streets of Seattle.

Health officials tap the best of modern medical wizardry. In California's

Orange County, DNA fingerprinting recently helped trace a TB outbreak among foreign-born high school students back to a single student.

But more often, the battle hinges on old-fashioned methods such as community outreach, education, and screening of high-risk populations.

A staple of elimination efforts is directly observed treatment. Knocking out a TB infection requires that a patient take potent antibiotics for at least six months. But symptoms — which may include fever, chest pain and coughing up blood — diminish after a few weeks, and many patients don't bother to finish their treatment.

That's where outreach workers like Byas come in, personally delivering packets of pills and making sure they are swallowed.

When she started in 1984, most of her patients were skid row drunks, wheezing

old men who washed down their pills with swigs of fortified wine.

The foreign-born patients who now predominate present different challenges. By the time Byas deals with them, an interpreter has explained what is going on, but difficulties remain.

Some immigrants, especially Asians and Africans, are leery of the pills Byas offers.

"People will tell us our medicine is nasty, that it's going to kill them," she said. "Some of them will wait until I leave and spit their pills right out, so I stay a while and talk to them to make sure they swallow."

She tells of one Vietnamese woman who insisted on keeping her treatment a secret from her husband, who disapproved of Western medicine.

"She'd hang a blue sock in the window if her husband was home. If I saw that, I would bring in a book and make believe I was selling her something,

or I'd read from a newspaper — anything to pass the time. Finally he would leave, and then she would take the pills."

In Seattle and surrounding King County, one of every four TB patients takes pills under direct observation.

Dr. Charles Nolan, head of the county's tuberculosis programme, hopes to reach half of all patients soon. But he and other health officials say the epidemic won't be arrested until the entire medical establishment wakes up to tuberculosis.

"We're running as fast as we can with these kinds of services, and we're still losing ground," Dr. Nolan said. "We think TB screening and prevention ought to be a part of routine health care in high-risk populations — just like childhood immunisations."

Some critics say improved care for tuberculosis will only increase America's lure for Third World resi-

dents, thereby erasing any gains.

"It's no surprise, after 30 years of sustained illegal immigration, that we should see the resurgence of diseases we thought were long since conquered," said Dan Stein, executive director of the Federation for American Immigration Reform.

His group's proposed solution: Crack down on illegal immigration and reduce legal immigration.

Please excuse Dorothy Byas if she leaves the policy debate to others. She is too busy delivering pills. A decade ago, it was common wisdom that tuberculosis soon would be eliminated in the United States. Now, at age 64, Byas knows the battle will continue long after she retires.

Still, she has reason for hope. Tuberculosis is curable, after all, and her patients, despite cultural differences, share a desire that anyone can understand.

"They really want to get well," she said.

Film exposes black market in human body parts

By Anthony Boodle
Reuters

OTTAWA — Kidneys stolen from Moscow morgues, corneas extracted with spoons from mental patients in Argentina and children vanishing without a trace in Honduras are signs of a flourishing black market in human organs, according to a British-Canadian documentary film.

The Body Parts Business, to be aired on Nov. 21 in Britain and on Nov. 22 in Canada, calls on World Health Organisations to stop an illicit trade spurred by growing demand for organs for transplants and use in medical research and cosmetics.

The film says the sale of organs for hard currency has become the newest capitalist venture in Russia

and accuses a leading Moscow transplant surgeon of cashing in.

Commercial documents obtained by its makers show that one Russian company sold 700 kidneys, hearts and lungs, 1,400 livers, 18,000 thymus glands, 2,000 eyes and 3,000 pairs of testicles, which are used for rejuvenating creams.

"Turning human beings into a commodity is really disgusting," said Bruce Harris, the film's investigator. "We are creating a new dichotomy in the world between rich and poor, where the rich and powerful can now buy life."

Harris, executive director for Latin America of Covenant House, the international child-care agency based in London, set out to investigate the body parts market from his work with

street children in Honduras.

Last year, 800 children disappeared in Tegucigalpa, and the word on the streets of the Honduran capital is that children were being kidnapped by organ traffickers. "People are disappearing and being killed for their organs... we fear it is happening in many other countries," Harris said.

"To extract a kidney is easy... you put it in a preserving liquid, then in one of those styrofoam boxes, and you can just take it on the plane as carry-on luggage," he said.

Medical advances allow transplant patients to be kept alive longer and demand for organs has soared. Road accident victims, usually with head injuries, are still the main source of donor organs. Seat belts and speed limits, however,

have improved road safety and supply has not kept up with demand.

"There is a worldwide shortage of organs," said the film's Canadian director, Judy Jackson. "Hospitals in the United States are vying with each other for organs and one major transplant hospital went to Brazil to offer equipment for lives."

The film says one hospital in central Argentina removed the organs of 66 accident victims before they had been declared clinically dead. Intensive patients, Harris found, were not treated as if they had to be saved at all costs, but as potential organ donors.

Harris visited a psychiatric institute near Buenos Aires that she said is under investigation for running an underground trade in cor-

neas, worth \$7,000 apiece on the black market. Police raided the home for mentally retarded children after a patient was found dead in a nearby swamp with his eye sockets empty. The documentary says.

An employee tells how he used coffee spoons to take out corneas from dead patients and even live ones. The family of a young man who survived the forcible removal of his corneas said he had been left to die in a ditch.

In Moscow, documents showed a Russian company had agreed to supply foreign customers with 600 kidneys at \$20,000 each.

"We have copies of commercial contracts for organs between a Russian company and clients in Germany, Italy and Israel," Harris said. Businesses in Britain, Italy and Turkey have proposed joint ventures to undertake low cost transplants for foreigners in Moscow, where a kidney transplant can be obtained for as little as \$80,000.

Body parts sold for research, including bone marrow and skeletons, have been stolen from Moscow morgues, which are filled with unclaimed bodies, since many Russians cannot afford to

bury their relatives and bodies are considered property of the state, according to the documentary.

The film accuses one Moscow surgeon of cashing in on the export trade and using a false manifest in the name of Eurotransplant, a non-profit organisation based in Holland that distributes donor organs in Europe.

The documentary says Eurotransplant broke off an agreement with the surgeon two years ago after discovering that he had entered commercial deals to carry out transplants for foreigners. The doctor denied he had engaged in any

unethical practice.

Jackson, who made a documentary in India two years ago on poverty-stricken donors selling kidneys that were transplanted into well-to-do Europeans, says her new film only scratches the surface of a flourishing body parts business.

She and Harris hope it can stir a groundswell of public opinion to demand international controls on the trade.

The European Parliament is debating a resolution to recommend regulations on transplants, including a ban on the extraction of organs from children under any circumstances.

Smokers more likely to quit by tapering off, not going cold turkey

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Tapering off may top going cold turkey when it comes to quitting cigarettes, addiction researchers have reported.

Those who can delay the day's first cigarette or give up smoking for seven days have a good chance of eventually dropping the habit for good, according to a new study.

"Maybe our goal shouldn't be to get them to quit," said study author John P. Pierce of the University of California, San Diego (UCSD).

"Maybe our goal should be to get them to quit for at least a week or to get them under 15 cigarettes a day," he said at a meeting of the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

The study provides a new view of quitting in which smokers are encouraged to make progress by smoking less and quitting intermittently, rather than making the difficult choice to stop immediately.

A no-smoking programme designed for the State of California was based on Dr. Pierce's findings and has enabled 26.7 per cent of smokers to quit, roughly twice the rate of those quitting without the programme, said Shu-Hong Zhu, another UCSD researcher who helped develop the programme.

A key feature of the programme was repeated follow-up calls from counsellors. Without such follow-up, "doctors' advice is useless," Dr. Pierce said.

Dr. Pierce also found that restriction of smoking at home and in the workplace was a factor contributing to successful quitting — when combined with assistance like that in the California No-Smoking Programme.

David Abrams of Brown University in Providence, R.I., an authority on smoking cessation, praised Dr. Pierce's work, saying it confirms an emerging view that quitting is often a gradual

process.

"You've got to see a slip or a relapse as a learning process, rather than a failure," Dr. Abrams said.

Ninety per cent of smokers who try to go cold turkey fail to quit, most of them relapsing within four days, Dr. Pierce said.

Dr. Pierce and his colleagues based their study on interviews with 4,624 Californians who were asked about their smoking habits and history and then interviewed again an average of 18 months later.

Of those smokers who said in the first interview they had quit for a week, 18 per cent had quit altogether by the time of the second interview. Of smokers who had never quit for a week, only 10 per cent had quit by the time of the second interview.

Likewise, 18 per cent of smokers who said they lit up fewer than 15 cigarettes a day had quit by the time of the second interview. Only 8 per cent of pack-a-day smokers had quit, and only

5 per cent of heavier smokers.

Those who said they waited 30 minutes or longer to have their first cigarette after waking up were also more likely to quit than the others.

Those who said they waited 30 minutes or longer to have their first cigarette after waking up were also more likely to quit than the others.

"If you can't have a shower before your first cigarette in the morning, you're in real trouble," Dr. Pierce said.

Dr. Pierce said smokers who quit for a week and relapse should understand they have progressed to a new stage at which they are more likely to succeed in quitting.

In the same way, smokers who can be encouraged to light up fewer than 15 cigarettes a day should be encouraged.

"We're looking for progress," he said. "If you don't start, you're not going to win."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

SEASONAL
By Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS
1 Medium for open discussion
6 Move at —
11 Bitter Ger.
15 Ready for picking
19 Maine cottage town
20 Brestes
21 — which is half a fruit
(Tennessee)
22 Summer covers
23 Future oak
24 The — thymus
25 Crooked in yore
26 Exposed
27 Line 1 of rhyme
31 Success
32 Obvious

33 Moon valley
34 Eerie seed
37 Delicate
40 Remove
41 Mail labor
42 Monkeys
43 — the line
46 Period
49 Line 2 of rhyme
50 Wreath of glass
51 Suburb of Paris
52 Sound of surf
53 Systems of tracks
54 Scenic
55 Reiner
56 Backyard
57 Donkey
58 Hues
59 Actor Chaney of 1930s

70 Levit
72 Spanish queen
73 Woolly fabric
74 Land
77 Deduce positively
79 Character actor
80 — the line
81 Agnes's land
81 Spoken
84 Units of work
88 Line 3 of rhyme
89 Line 4 of rhyme
90 Contend
91 Forfeiture
92 Literary collection
93 So be it
94 Malice
95 Antecedent
101 Middle rashly
103 Romero or Frank

105 Mythical bird
106 "Carmen" or "Aida"
108 Last line of rhyme
110 Line
111 — Minor
112 Doctores
113 County in New Mexico
120 Glacial ridges
121 Sluggish
122 Tapestry
123 Polish lancer of yore
124 Direction
125 Promontory
126 Antecedent
127 Authoritative assertion

DOWN
1 Frith
2 Hair what
3 Defiant
4 31 million
5 Not King Cole favorite
6 Musical org.
7 Jumper
8 Take — from me
9 Na meows
10 Electronic signal
11 Kibitz
12 Run away
13 Dancer
14 Perceives
15 Lottery
16 Unhappy
17 Unhappy
18 Italian cathedral
19 Special brief
20 Application
21 Nothing

34 Northern European
35 Ranges of Logan
36 Gas sign
37 Shipments
38 Sole
39 Vase or jar
40 One lavishly
41 Part of New England
42 Throat directed
43 Name
44 Rumba or tango
45 Modern
46 Arctic
47 Electrical engine
48 Football part
49 Oso's land, abbr.
50 For all
51 Peau-de-...
52 Predominant
53 Atmosphere

62 Narrow bed
63 Acclerate, as a motor
64 Stroll
65 Area
66 Decarage
67 Fry highly
68 Impact
69 Singing
70 Noah's boat
71 Singing
72 Limp's kin
73 Wide smile
74 Modern
75 Betsy or
76 Dams
77 Concerning, abbr.
78 Kelly or
79 Astoria
80 Upset
81 Length measures
82 — For all
83 Between, prof.

92 "With those who are most —"
(Perry)
93 State positively
94 West of films
95 Rules of conduct
100 Mo.
101 Washington or
102 Regime
103 Decortum
104 Late western
105 American
106 Vegetables
107 Smith's group
108 Pastime
109 On the house
110 Wander
111 Japanese
112 Recapture
113 Squaring
114 River in Turkey
115 — just (useless)

Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Estate auction brie-a-brac included one brass crab, a porcelain pag, and a solid gold bug.
2. If you can't find dream, perhaps something might happen to you second.
3. Temperamental fans went wild at state fair when referee stopped featherweight fight too soon.
4. Paternal pleater has parental interest in his prenatal heir.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. LEBBY LD HJCANJS HYABI HL SYASS LXT
HJC NLXNENLY RABW DYBB YATBI HL
WAI WLRIB AK WLRIBL

—By Earl Ireland

2. MUXAR MOTW JZPP EFGJ, XAUCE POGBUD
JZM MCGQWBP, J.F.J. UAZ CASP, RE HOT
SAUCE DER HOJFP BJFEQ PHAW.

—By Duane H. McGogy

3. LTYLAMUY DIZ ODBBLLCU
JDIJLYMLZ KDGL KSIOIL BATTBASTBK
XESM SZLZ JC MD GJYE GDDISE.

—By Eugene T. Malenko

4. ZYXW XVYU XVTWY ZS RQPPWN LVTW VR
QERU BJZTWN RJQS IMRVPWN RLWVYR
ZS VSY VNMQSY BLW IVTWM.

—By Rita Salvo

Scientists solve hemophilia mystery

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Scientists have solved a key mystery about hemophilia and developed a new test for telling women whether they risk bearing sons with the disease.

The test should give a definitive answer in about 45 per cent of families affected by severe cases of hemophilia A, the most common form of the blood disorder, researchers said.

It will also work for prenatal diagnosis in those families, they said.

Experts called the new test a valuable addition to current assessment methods.

Hemophilia A appears in about one in every 5,000

males, and about half the cases are considered severe. The disease is caused by defects in the gene that tells the body how to make Factor VIII, a substance that promotes clotting.

People with a severe form of the disease may have to inject themselves with Factor VIII 30 to 50 times a year to control internal bleeding and maintain their health.

Scientists had been puzzled by the fact that in about half the severe cases, they were unable to find any defect in the Factor VIII gene. The new study shows that the problem is an unusual flaw, apparently caused by a process not described before in any disease, said study co-author

Jane Gitschier of the University of California, San Francisco, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Ms. Gitschier presented the work in the November issue of the journal Nature Genetics with colleagues at her school, the Johns Hopkins University School of

Medicine in Baltimore and the University of Geneva Medical School in Switzerland.

Women can have the defective gene without getting hemophilia because they also have a second Factor VIII gene. Males have no such backup.

SOLUTION

PUZZLES

HEADS & TAILS

Arch druM Shoe tenT
Eels staR Drug sofa
Mill

Name of European city: AMSTERDAM.

Israel, PLO reach accord on some points

(Continued from page 1)

remote areas, Morag and Metzarim, patrolling the areas around them as well as guarding the settlements themselves. Determining the settlements' geographic borders remains another key issue. The Israelis want to maintain the buildings, agricultural and industrial land but the PLO says they should not keep the surrounding land.

The sources said the Israelis accepted to expand Jericho to 52 square kilometres from 25 square kilometres but the PLO which insists Jericho is 370 square kilometres, nearly the size of Gaza, is bargaining for more.

The PLO-Israeli talks were

due to end Wednesday and resume next week in Cairo, they added. The two teams will finish their talks in Cairo and not return to the Red Sea resort of Taba where they started the negotiations one month ago.

The secrecy surrounding the autonomy talks and growing violence in the occupied territories have raised scepticism about meeting the Dec. 13 deadline before events on the ground overwhelm the entire process.

Dr. Shaath said he considers talks of delay a form of psychological warfare by opponents of the peace talks.

"I don't see any reason for delay," Dr. Shaath told the

Associated Press. He said the Israeli delegation and its leader have the deadline firmly in mind.

"The Israeli delegation is acting in a very positive way in terms of finishing on time," he said. "I got very clear assurances from Gen. Shabak that we are finishing on time."

Israel, however, appears less concerned than the PLO about the timing of the pullout.

The Israelis say they expect to reach agreement, but not necessarily by Dec. 13. PLO officials insist that a delay will signal to Palestinians that the talks are going nowhere.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat urged Palestinians Tuesday to work to build a new state, describing the PLO-Israeli accord as only a "first step," the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

In a telephone message to Palestinians celebrating the fifth anniversary of the PLO's proclamation of the "State of Palestine," Mr. Arafat called for "unity and work" to ensure "the triumph of the struggle to build a state for all Palestinians."

The withdrawal of the Israeli army "far from towns, villages and camps" would be followed by a "complete withdrawal from all the occupied territories and the establishment of our independent state," Mr. Arafat said in his message to Palestinians at Al Hakawati theatre in East Jerusalem.

Party alliance

(Continued from page 1)

Reports that they were meeting Karak Deputy-elect Abdul Hadi Al Majali at the home of Fifth District Deputy-elect Mifteh Al Lawzi could not be confirmed.

Mr. Majali's Al Ahd Party and the "conglomeration" of four parties are "planning on a broad coalition of between 16-22 deputies, but there are personality clashes among the party leaders and this is slowing down the process of bloc building," said one JNA official.

The parties involved all relatively new traditionally based right-of-centre political parties within are hoping to create a bloc of influential deputies who will dominate Parliament and undermine the influence of the 18-bloc Islamic Action Front bloc that already exists, observers say.

Aided militia welcomes end to hunt

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aided's militia and U.N. officials welcomed Wednesday a U.N. Security Council resolution which called off a hunt for General Aided to put him on trial for the murder of U.N. peacekeeping troops.

"We are happy about it," said Mohammad Mirreh Aden, a supporter of Gen. Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA) militia.

Gen. Aided, who has been in hiding since an arrest order was issued in mid-June for the killings of 24 Pakistani U.N. troops, was expected to celebrate by addressing a rally in Mogadishu on Thursday, supporters said.

The former army general has moved about large parts of the city relatively freely throughout the battle with U.N. troops in which hundreds of Somalis and more than 70 U.N. troops were killed.

Attack on vice-president's son fuels Yemen crisis

SANAA (R) — A gun attack on the house of the vice-president's son is likely to aggravate the dispute in Yemen between leaders from the North and South, political sources said on Wednesday.

Unidentified gunmen sprayed bullets on windows and walls of Adnan Al Baeedh's house in Aden on Monday although no one was hurt, police said.

Adnan is the director of the city's criminal investigation department and son of Vice-President Ali Salem Al Baeedh, whose nephew, Kamel Al Hamed, was shot dead three weeks ago in a car which was also carrying two of Mr. Baeedh's sons.

The senior Baeedh leads the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), which ruled South Yemen as a Marxist state until it united with conservative North Yemen in 1990.

He also has fallen out with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, former leader of the North, and his General People's Congress (GPC) over political and economic reforms, plunging the new country into crisis.

The two parties shared power until general elections in April when the Islamist Party, Islah, won enough seats to make it the third partner in a coalition government.

The YSP says Mr. Saleh's party is trying to run everything its own way, turning unification into annexation.

Political sources said the attack on the house, just a few days before Mr. Baeedh was expected to return to the capital Sanaa after a three-month 'retreat' in his southern stronghold Aden, would complicate mediation efforts.

Mr. Baeedh has boycotted all state functions in Sanaa, including his own swearing-in ceremony last month.

The weekly newspaper Al Ayam quoted Adnan as saying the attack as "one of the outlawed acts categorically rejected by the Yemeni people."

Security forces arrested a group of suspects but gave no further details.

Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas of the YSP last week said officers in the army, which has still to merge, were behind the killings of many YSP members.

Parliament and the cabinet are involved in mediation efforts. Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat is also helping, political sources said.

Mr. Arafat visited Yemen earlier this month and the PLO chief representative in Sanaa, Yahia Rabah, said a second visit could not be ruled out.

Reparians share pollution control

(Continued from page 1)

The agreement to share pollution data and monitoring equipment was seen by all sides as a first concrete outcome of the meeting. Under the accord, the U.S. will extend support for the Red Sea riparians and the World Bank to set up an authority to deal with potential problems such as oil spills and other ecological hazards.

According to experts, none of the Red Sea states except Saudi Arabia has pollution-monitoring equipment, and this was seen as a key shortcoming, particularly against the backdrop of rising incidents of sea pollution.

Under the monitoring agreement, one of 20 projects approved by the meeting, interconnected pilot bases will be set up in Aqaba in Jordan, Eilat in Israel and Nuweibeh in Egypt, the officials said.

Japan, which chairs the working group on environment, is expected to provide parts of the equipment and expertise for setting up the Aqaba centre supported by the U.S. which will help establish a data bank, they said.

"The meeting did not get down to definite figures and details, but the mood was that every decision taken there will be followed up seriously," said the diplomat.

The gathering, attended by representatives of more than 40 countries and international and regional agencies, also endorsed a Palestinian proposal to establish a Palestinian environmental protection authority after Israel, the U.S., Japan, Russia and the European Community (EC) drop-

ped their earlier objections to the idea, the official said.

"Israel agreed that the project could be set up under the Sept. 13 accord it has signed with the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation)," said the official. "Obviously it sought to project its dropping its earlier objections to the project as a balancing factor against its rejection of discussing its nuclear waste disposal."

Toshinori Shigeie, the Japanese head of the group, described the approval of the Palestinian project as a major success.

The working group on environment is one of five panels linked to the multi-lateral phase of the peace process. The others deal with refugees, water, economic cooperation, and arms control.

The Cairo meeting was the second gathering of any of the working groups in an Arab country. Tunisia hosted the first such meeting, of the panel on refugees, last month.

The actual implementation of recommendations and projects approved by the five working groups has so far been linked to actual progress in the bilateral discussions between Israel and the main Arab parties involved in the conflict — Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinians and Jordan.

But with the Israeli-Palestinian breakthrough evident in the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement, diplomats and officials believe work could start on the ground on projects to address pressing problems.

Syria and Lebanon are staying away from the multi-lateral talks altogether.

PLO reformists gain slow pace

(Continued from page 1)

situation will be different once the people inside the territories have a bigger say and role," said one Fateh official from the occupied territories.

Other critics of Mr. Arafat argue that some Fateh officials are mainly worried that the reformist movement would undermine their privileges, and consequently they are unlikely to seriously get involved in any movement that will shake up the status quo.

So far, two well-placed Fateh officials have signed the petition — Nabil Amr, a close aide to Mr. Arafat and his former ambassador to Moscow, and Samih Abdul Fatah, the former PLO ambassador to Prague.

The initiators of the protest petition, namely the Palestine People's Party (PPP), are satisfied with the reaction to the demands contained in the memorandum and are by no means discouraged by the fact that it has not so far collected a big number of signatories.

"The process is definitely gaining momentum," said Tayseer Arouri of the PPP. "We were judging the process by the political weight of the signatories and the broad support for the demands."

Among the major signatories are Haidar Abdul Shafi, Bashir Barghouti, PPP secretary general, Anis Al Ousim, a legal expert and advisor to the negotiating team, Father Moussa Ayad, and PLO Central Council member Ibrahim Abu Ayash.

Dr. Abdul Shafi's signature is expected to secure wider support for the movement since he has been the most outspoken independent Palestinian leader in the territories who has publicly criticised Mr. Arafat's leadership.

The success of the movement will not only hinge on the number of signatories but also on building public pressure on Mr. Arafat to yield more powers to his partners and to Palestinian institutions.

According to the signatories, demands for reforms cannot be postponed until the setting up of Palestinian autonomy, as some Fateh officials suggest, since Mr. Arafat's leadership style is already having damaging results on the current Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, they say.

Mr. Arafat's major allies, including Yasser Abed Rabo's Palestine Democratic Union (Fida), is equally disgruntled by the way the PLO leader is handling the negotiations.

The signatories say the "smaller group" Israeli-Palestinian meetings in Cairo have practically reduced the negotiating Palestinian team into a very narrow circle of people, provoking suspicions and fears among the most ardent supporters of the peace accord with Israel.

According to Fida officials who had been involved in the Taba talks, democratisation and reforms are crucial for boosting the Palestinian negotiating position. But Fida sources criticise the way the "reformists" have so far proceeded — including the publishing of the petition — prior to the collection of enough signatures and submission to Mr. Arafat.

But initiators of the petition counter that Fida should take the initiative and join the movement instead of criticising the way it has been handled.

Other independent Palestinians who refrained from signing the petition expressed fears that the drive will be used by individuals to extract personal gains from Mr. Arafat under the banner of political reforms.

This mood, according to the initiators of the drive, is expected to change once the movement proves that it could sustain itself — as they expect.

"This is not a short-term process. We do not expect to reap immediate results, but the process has to continue and to be sustained. This will require long breath and far sightedness," said Mr. Arouri.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary Issue No. 21 Drawing of November 17, 1993

Winning Tickets	
Holder of ticket No. 54696 A Wins JD 40,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 4,000 each wins JD 400 54697 54698 54796 55696 04696 44696 53696 54596 54686 54695
Holder of ticket No. 54696 B Wins JD 10,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 1,500 each wins JD 150 54697 54698 54796 55696 04696 54695 54696 54596 53696 44696
Holder of ticket No. 31145 A B Wins JD 6,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 1,000 each wins JD 100 31146 31155 31245 32145 41145 31144 31135 31045 30145 21145
Holder of ticket No. 24995 A B Wins JD 4,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 1,400 each wins JD 70 24996 24995 24995 25995 34995 24994 24995 24995 23995 14995
Holder of ticket No. 49581 A B Wins JD 3,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 1,000 each wins JD 50 49582 49591 49681 40581 59581 49580 49571 49481 48581 39581
Holder of ticket No. 21831 A B Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 900 each wins JD 45 21832 21841 21931 22831 31831 21830 21821 21731 20831 11831
Holder of ticket No. 37971 A B Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 800 each wins JD 30 37972 37981 37071 38971 47971 37970 37961 37871 36971 27971
Holder of ticket No. 35082 A B Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 400 each wins JD 30 35083 35092 35182 36082 45082 35081 35072 35982 34082 25082
Holder of ticket No. 12440 A B Wins JD 800	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 200 each wins JD 10 12441 12450 12540 13440 22440 12449 12430 12340 11440 02440

TICKETS ENDING WITH	
24395 19419 (A,B) Win JD 400 each	6312 5117 A B Win JD 55 each
58410 23985 (A,B) Win JD 200 each	10,000 tickets ending with 6 A B Win JD 3 each

COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS	
48 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in 047 420 943 360 A B Win JD 10	

Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number 20 of Nov. 2, 1993

Abdullah Mubarak Amman Winner Grand Prize JD 40,000	Haydar Al Shafi Zagreb Winner Half First Smaller Prize A JD 10,000	Nasrallah Fida Amman Winner Half First Smaller Prize A JD 10,000	Dr. Abdul Zuhair Amman Winner Half Second B JD 500	Shari Mubarak Amman Winner Half Second B JD 500	Abdullah Mubarak Zagreb Winner Half Third C JD 250	Dr. Abdul Zuhair Amman Winner Half Third C JD 250
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China publishes blueprint for market economy

BEIJING (AFP) — China published in full Tuesday a blueprint for shifting to a market economy by 2000, but the 25-page document failed to set out concrete timetables for reforms necessary to achieve this aim.

The "decision of the CPC central committee on some issues concerning the establishment of a socialist market economic structure" — adopted at last week's third plenum of the party central committee's 14th congress — called China's economic shift a "profound revolution."

It urged officials to "redouble their efforts to speed up reform," blaming problems like economic overheating on "the fact that the drawbacks of the old structure have not been thoroughly eradicated and the new structure has yet to take shape."

Moving to a market economy is bound to change "various irrational relationships of interest that were either inherent in the old structure or have resulted from the process of transition from the old to

the new," it said. But it appeared from the 50-article "decision" that these very vested interests prevented the plenum's 310 delegates from agreeing radical steps at their four-day meeting here.

The blueprint covers 10 broad areas, including the market system, state enterprises, government functions, taxation and social security, foreign trade, agriculture and law.

While stressing the "urgency" of many changes, the document appeared a product of compromise between economic conservatives, reformists and provincial officials. In no instance did it set out a clear timetable for reform and in some key areas tended on the side of caution.

"It is imperative that we should take care to be steady and discreet and steer clear of massive losses and social upheavals," it said.

With regard to the loss-making state sector, the "decision" called for a modern enterprise system characterised by clearly defined property rights and independent man-

agement in market-oriented firms.

But, by reaffirming "public ownership as the mainstay," it failed to tackle the fundamental — but ideologically and socially sensitive — issue of how to deal with state assets.

Instead it left room for manoeuvre within the public ownership framework, saying state shares "may vary in different places and trades" and encouraging the simultaneous development of all economic sectors.

Corporatisation — in public and private hands — of state enterprises remained for plenum delegates only a "useful" experiment for separating ownership from management.

"It must not be done for show, or rashly on a mass scale," the decision said, adding only a "small number" of limited liability stock companies should be listed.

On taxation, the decision said that "in the near future" Beijing's contractual system with provinces would be rationalised, while central,

shared and local tax categories would be established.

But no timetable was given for the reform — which has met with strong opposition from provincial leaders who would be required to surrender more revenue to the centre.

The document also said strengthening macro-economic controls was "urgently" needed to enable indirect economic regulation for "sustained, rapid and healthy" development.

Reform and reduction of government organs should also be completed "at the earliest possible date," it said, but again gave no deadlines.

The decision also dealt with banking reform, reiterating the importance of establishing a real central bank and creating a commercial — rather than policy-led — system.

Social security, legal, pay and income tax reforms were also highlighted as important for the sound development of a

market economy.

Only two pages were devoted to agricultural reforms with no concrete measures put forward to deal with an upsurge of violent unrest by discontented farmers in recent months.

Finally, the document, latched on endemic corruption, calling on officials to "act promptly and unflinchingly to build clean government and combat corruption."

Officials pin hopes on Kazakh tenge

ALMA-ATA (R) — Kazakhstan's new tenge currency trickled onto the streets Tuesday and officials said they hoped its introduction would end an inflationary spiral likely to culminate in November price rises of 60 per cent or more.

"The most important thing is how it all starts," said Beisebek Zuyabekov, a deputy chairman of the Kazakh Central Bank. "As far as we can see, it is going all right so far."

"We must keep this currency stable. This is in our national interest," he said.

The new currency, backed by \$725 million in gold and foreign exchange reserves, was

officially introduced Monday. Kazakh citizens were given four days to stop using the old rouble banknotes which have circulated here since Soviet days.

The tenge notes are still in short supply. Residents can change up to 100,000 Soviet-era roubles at a rate of 500 roubles per tenge.

There are no coins because they have not been delivered yet, but only "tiny" — brightly-coloured, shoddily-printed monopoly money in denominations of one to 10.

There are 100 tiny to the tenge. A sudden jump in prices and a weekend fall in the value of the Soviet-era rouble means that nobody really knows what the new currency is worth.

On Tuesday, banks offered four to six tenge to the dollar. Shops and restaurants stuck to the official rate of 500 old roubles per tenge. Street traders tried to convert inflated rouble prices into tenge before realising nobody wanted to buy.

"They never expected to have to introduce the new currency in such a hurry and that's why there is so much confusion now," said a Western adviser to the Kazakh Central Bank.

"It'll probably stay confused for another month or two, but then things should start to get better. I think these people have the will to bring inflation down as they're learning very fast," he said.

Nigerian fuel strike spreads

LAGOS (R) — A three-day old strike in Nigeria to force the military-appointed interim government to cancel a huge fuel price hike spread to other states Wednesday.

Workers in some northern and eastern states joined the strike which began in the southwest home region of presidential contender Moshood Abiola, whose apparent victory in June elections was cancelled by the then-ruling military council.

Banks and shops closed in many states and traffic remained light in Lagos, the main city of Africa's biggest oil-producing country.

"There is no work here and no commercial vehicles about," said a clerk by telephone from the police headquarters in the city of Ibadan, north of Lagos.

The strike called by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) poses a major challenge to the military-appointed government headed by Ernest Shonekan, which took office when military ruler Ibrahim Babangida left office in August.

Negotiations between the NLC and the government were due to resume later in the day, but the 600 per cent fuel hike enacted by Shonekan's government last week has been widely criticised.

"The political climate is inappropriate for such an action," the independent Tribune newspaper said in a front

page comment on the hike.

The increases took the price of petrol of five naira (23 cents) per litre from 0.70 naira (three cents), doubling transport fares and fueling an already high rate of inflation.

Ibadan, an Abiola political bastion totally opposed to the interim government, had been tense and at least one person was killed during recent student demonstrations, residents said.

Lagos state government secretary in Ikeja was deserted, said witnesses. So were officers in the eastern state of Enugu and Niger in the north, residents there said.

A high court last week declared the government illegal in a case filed by Mr. Abiola, the undeclared winner of the June 12 election which the former military regime later annulled.

The interim government, put in place by the military rulers to complete their much-delayed return to full democracy, has appealed and is pressing ahead with plans for fresh elections.

It published conditions for candidates wishing to stand in presidential and local council elections slated for Feb. 19.

Mr. Abiola opposes any fresh presidential poll and his supporters have boycotted all preparations leading to the vote.

The Campaign for Democracy (C.D.) pressure group, which has pledged to bring

down the interim government, has planned demonstrations for Thursday to add punch to the strike.

Demonstrations by Lagos University students and other youths in the metropolis at the beginning of the strike Monday turned violent and police fired teargas to disperse crowds.

The government says it desperately needs money from the fuel price hike to pay off debts and restore its oil industry now in a complete shambles.

"The decision to raise fuel prices is because of the urgent need to prop up the economy," Oil Minister Don Etebet, the man at the centre of the price hike, told the senate Tuesday.

He said the combined debt of the state oil company, the government's own needs to service foreign debts and the money needed to repair the refineries came to more than \$10 billion.

State-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) was being threatened by its equity partners with seizure of its 60 per cent shares in their joint ventures to offset six months of arrears of money it owes them.

Nigeria's oil-based economy has long been plundered by those in authority and unionists argue that even if the price hike was allowed to stand officials would simply embezzle the proceeds.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY NOVEMBER 18, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Avoid those who want to take your time talking on the telephone or chewing over past unresolved issues which are not likely to get resolved any time soon. Plan to get away on a short vacation.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A day when family affairs can be of first importance so first get them worked out to your satisfaction and then get into property matters that come up.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are now able to get with those persons, especially those who live or are in any business near you and get their good will for whatever your activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Financial matters are important today because you have such good judgment where they are concerned and can increase income by taking definite action.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have special charm and magnetism now and you can get most anything that you want by going after it in a confident and understanding manner.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is your day to show your romantic fervour quietly and alone to the one who means the most to you and you win big rewards by so doing.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Friends who are inclined to be sentimental can be the oper-

ing means by which you can make progress towards the longings that most activate you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make sure that you get before the general public and show your greatest charm and attractiveness and it will bring you considerable prestige.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) New horizons are dawning for you but make sure you realise their extent and do not accept only a small insignificant part of them for success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever obligations you have, make sure you approach the one to whom you have made any promises, frankly explain what your situation is, and all's well.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Realise those you need to have some cooperative dealings with now are in a pretty emotional state of mind and you know how to get them to your bidding.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A day to add whatever efficiencies and charm or colour to your environment that will make it easier for you to perform whatever your duties.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) One of those days when the sun shines on almost anything that you wish to do of a recreational or an entertainment nature so have a ball.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Considerable difficulties through misunderstandings and a breakdown in communications between people keeps you on edge just when you had planned some relaxation. Avoid those who are emotionally disturbed.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can have a conversation with family members about joint interests with considerable insight into problems following but later avoid emotionalism.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get out to see and to discuss with a partner where you are jointly headed, bringing to light your plans and finding out what that person wishes.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can get increased benefits of a practical nature from whatever activities you now engage in so full speed ahead to add to your present assets.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Pleasures and amusements can now be yours, especially of a romantic and personal nature so be alert to seizing and enjoying these benefits.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Consider well your most intimate desires, and you can get a member of your family who is usually critical or reticent to aid you to obtain them.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now you find that the various acquaintances you have

can become much closer to you by some understanding action of their wishes which will be values.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Go to persons of both sexes who can aid you with an important outside ambition and you should get their help and make rapid progress in the acquisition.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider well now the advanced course of action that appeals to you and go after it from an entirely different stance if you want it to be yours.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take up promises you have made in the past and want to get rid of once and for all and show debtors that you appreciate the support given.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you have a venture with several associates this is an unusually good day to have a meeting of all concerned and reach a new agreement.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have every chance now to get out a monumental amount of tasks, awaiting your attention by your own application to the work at hand.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be a little more romantic with your mate today and tonight if you want to have an increase in the spirit of belonging together you so much love.

The French Technology Presentation

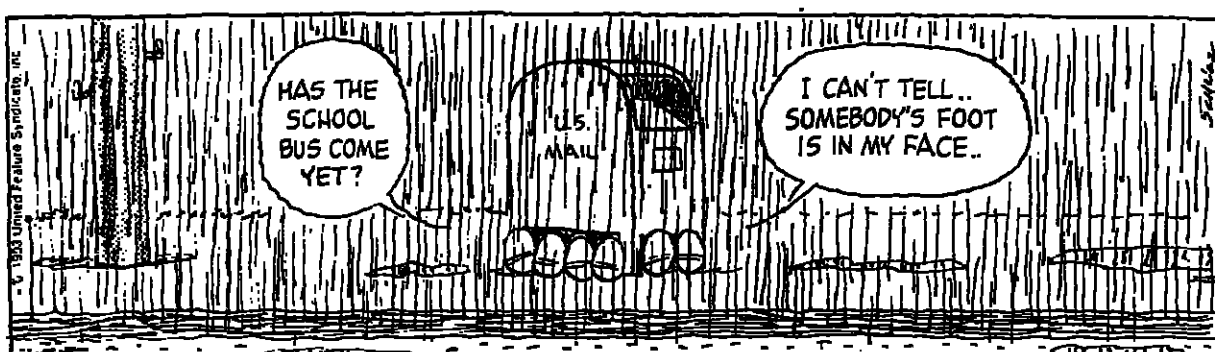
French Industrial Delegation will be presenting the most modern French Technology in the following fields:-

- 1- Waste Water Treatment.
- 2- Drilling and Deep Water Exploration.
- 3- Drilling Technology.
- 4- Exploration and Hydraulic Equipments.
- 5- Pumps and Water Fountains.
- 6- Marine aquaculture and rearing techniques.

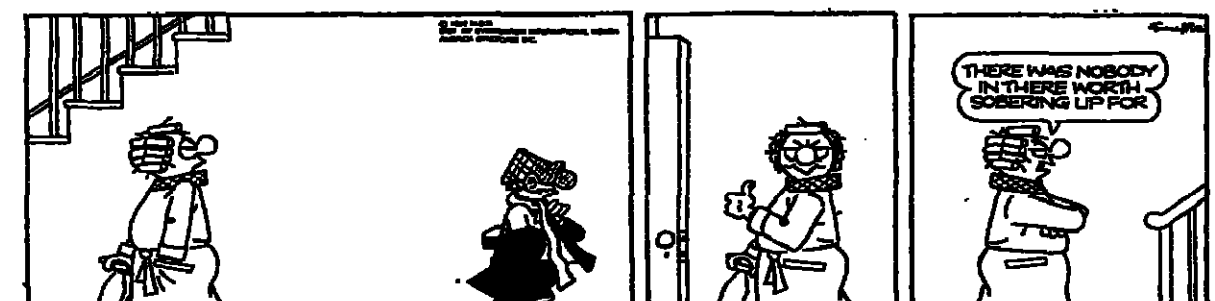


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Peanuts



Andy Capp



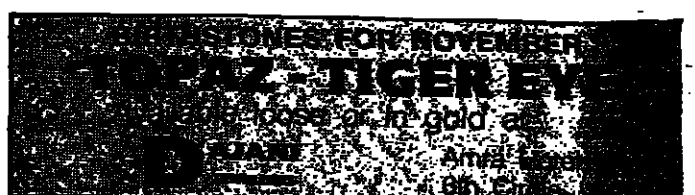
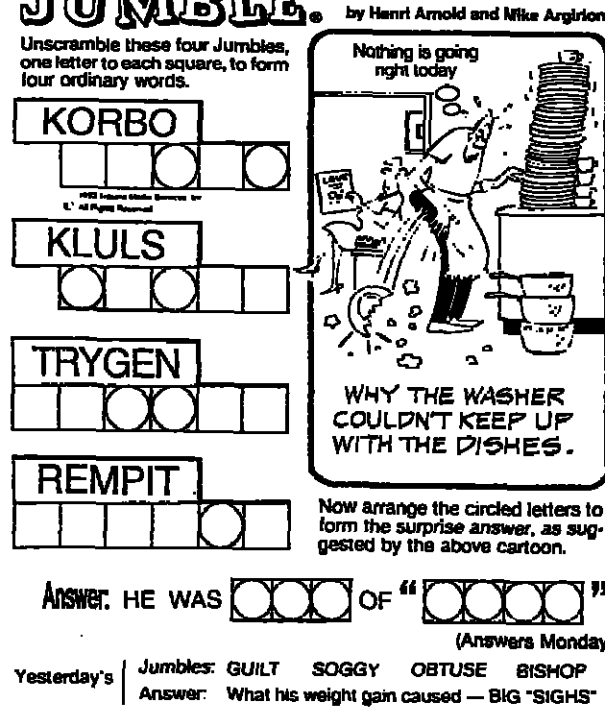
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF.



JUMBLE.



THE Daily Crossword



Belgium agrees recovery plan, slashes rates

BRUSSELS (R) — The Belgian government agreed a new package of austerity measures Wednesday and gave a welcome boost to financial markets by slashing interest rates.

The Belgian National Bank cut two of its leading interest rates, sending Belgian bond prices and shares surging.

The discount rate was cut to 5.50 per cent from 6.0 per cent and the central bank's key money market rate was slashed to 8.50 per cent from 9.40 per cent.

"Belgium is a wonderful country today," said one bond trader.

Ministers drew up a three-pronged strategy to control social spending, slow wage in-

creases and tackle rising unemployment after meeting for 16 hours.

"The agreement will help companies to be more competitive, help employment and save the social security system," Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene told reporters as he left the lengthy meeting.

Political sources said the plan contained 75 billion francs (\$2 billion) worth of spending cuts, mainly in health and family allowances, a wage freeze in 1995 and 1996 and an increase in certain taxes on capital and property.

Mr. Dehaene, whose country currently holds the presidency of the European Community, said the social plan

fitted European economic and monetary union guidelines.

Belgium, whose economy is expected to shrink by 1.5 per cent this year, has the highest debt in western Europe in terms of gross domestic product. It totalled almost nine trillion Belgian francs in June (\$250 billion), according to the central bank.

But analysts feared the plan could come unstuck if trade unions maintained their opposition to the austerity drive.

Unions staged a strike Monday to press their demand for the austerity effort to be shared out fairly and threatened more if the agreement did not meet with expectations.

Japanese to visit Arab Gulf states next week to discuss investment

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A Japanese delegation will start a tour of Gulf Arab states next week to discuss investment in the region that supplies the Asian industrial giant with most of its crude oil imports.

The 15-member delegation, sent by the Japan Cooperation Centre for the Middle East (JCCME), will arrive in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Nov. 24, the Japanese embassy here said.

It will spend five days in the UAE before it goes to Saudi Arabia and other GCC nations.

"The visit by the high-level

mission is intended to boost Japan's economic relations with Gulf countries and increase its investments in the region," the embassy said in a statement.

It will meet officials from several sectors to acquaint itself with the present business conditions and see investments and joint ventures.

It is the biggest Japanese mission to visit the region since the Gulf war ended in February 1991. The statement said the visit was sponsored by Japan's ministry of international trade and industry.

It follows statements by a

senior GCC official, in which he criticised Japan for its relatively low investment at a time when it has remained the Gulf's top oil and economic partner.

"We urge Japan to set up more joint projects in the region as it is our main economic and commercial partner," GCC assistant secretary general for economic affairs, Abdullah Al Quwaiz, said in July.

Japanese investments in Iran and GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE — are estimated at \$3.5 billion, mostly in oil and gas projects. The

figure is dwarfed by Japan's worldwide investment of \$386.5 billion, according to the embassy.

U.S. investments in the GCC alone are estimated at more than \$10 billion and nearly 700 companies from the United States operate in the region.

But Japan has remained the biggest commercial partner of the GCC, with their two-day trade peaking at \$36 billion in 1992. Gulf states also supply it with more than 60 per cent of its crude oil imports of around four million barrels per day (b/d).

Iran rial sinks further

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian rial sank to new lows against the dollar Wednesday and the central bank's policies came under increasing criticism.

London-based dealer Ali Pakpour said the dollar traded at 1,900 rials 20, rials above Tuesday's close.

"Dollars have virtually vanished from the market, everyone is holding on to his dollars because the central bank is raising the (dollar) rate everyday," he said.

The central bank set the dollar up five rials to 1,697/1,699. But it lowered the mark three rials to 1,001/1,003 and 100 yen seven rials to 1,590/1,594.

Newspapers and members of

parliament have stepped up criticism of the central bank, which has devalued the rial by a total of about 6.7 per cent since Oct. 31.

Iran's oil revenue has been hit by low oil prices in recent weeks, adding to problems stemming from delayed payments on up to \$10 billion of commercial debt.

In a speech to parliament deputy Mohammad Esmael Dairi Tuesday accused the central bank of "hurting the country's financial strength by trial-and-error policies."

Kayhan International newspaper criticised the bank's policy of selling \$5,000 in foreign exchange to anyone who asked, which was adopted in

April to shore up the rial.

It said the policy mainly benefited speculators and money dealers who took large amounts of cash out of the country.

When the bank restricted the no-questions-asked sales last week, it accelerated the rial's slide on the open market, the English-language paper said.

"It seems that the central bank is competing with big dealers now to raise the value of foreign currencies against the rial. Central bank's policies so far have proved to be crisis-oriented and not based on long-term plans and objectives to help low-income social strata," it said.

FOR SALE USED EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLE

RET-SER Engineering Agency has the following used equipment and vehicles. Anyone who would like to participate in this tender must bid by sealed envelope. Tender documents are available at Shmeisani, behind Philadelphia Hotel, ex Al Dustour newspaper road, in accordance with the dates mentioned hereunder. Open tender at 10:00 a.m.

Type	Q'ty	T. Date	Location
1. Wheel loader, CAT. 980C.	Model 1986	1	21/11/93
2. Truck loader, CAT. 973	Model 1986	1	21/11/93
3. V. Roller, Ingersoll-Rand	Model 1983	1	21/11/93
4. Jaw crusher, Chi-Ming CMJS	Model 1983	1	21/11/93
5. Cone crusher, Chi-Ming CMCF	Model 1983	1	21/11/93
6. Sedan, Toyota Corona ST-150	Model 1984	1	21/11/93
7. Cargo truck, Toyota Dyna	Model 1981	1	21/11/93
8. Pick Up, Toyota FJ 45LP-K	Model 1981	1	21/11/93

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 16/11/1993	Tokyo Close 17/11/1993
Sterling Pound	1.4805	1.4803
Deutsche Mark	1.7060	1.7083
Swiss Franc	1.5027	1.5052
French Franc	5.9090	5.9140**
Japanese Yen	106.75	107.05
European Currency Unit	1.1258	1.1258**

USD Per NTU: European (opening) 1000 JLD 1.000

Barter Interest Rates: 17/11/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.31	3.37	3.62
Sterling Pound	5.56	5.43	5.43	5.44
Deutsche Mark	6.18	6.06	5.81	5.37
Swiss Franc	4.43	4.37	4.15	3.94
French Franc	6.62	6.50	6.12	5.56
Japanese Yen	2.37	2.31	2.18	2.12
European Currency Unit	6.93	6.75	6.37	6.00

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 100,000 JLD or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin: 17/11/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6990	0.7010
Sterling Pound	1.0338	1.0390
Deutsche Mark	0.4089	0.4109
Swiss Franc	0.4639	0.4662
French Franc	0.1182	0.1188
Japanese Yen	0.6523	0.6556
Dutch Guilder	0.3644	0.3662
Swedish Krona	0.0419	0.0421
Italian Lira	0.0419	0.0421
Belgian Franc	0.0419	0.0421

Other Currencies: 17/11/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8300	1.8380
Lebanese Lira	0.04010	0.04130
Saudi Riyal	0.1855	0.1880
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2250	2.3150
Omani Riyal	0.1890	0.1918
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2220
Omani Riyal	1.7770	1.8200
UAE Dirham	0.1890	0.1918

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$100 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3121/31	Deutschemark
1.7096/06	Dutch guilders
1.9187/97	Swiss francs
1.5053/63	Belgian francs
36.19/23	French francs
5.9140/40	Italian lire
1668.80/3	Japanese yen
107.19/29	Swedish crowns
8.2531/73	Norwegian crowns
7.4145/45	Danish crowns
6.7815/15	
\$1.4770/80	
One sterling for ounce of gold	\$373.40/373.90

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Russia's Communists optimistic; surveys show jump in support

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia's Communist Party expressed optimism Wednesday about its chances in upcoming legislative elections as new opinion polls showed a dramatic rise in the number of Russians planning to vote Communist.

In a survey published Wednesday in the weekly Moscow News, 10 per cent of the voters interviewed said they would vote for the Communists compared with just two per cent two weeks earlier.

The poll was taken on Nov. 9.

Moscow News said the Communists had benefited from the government's tough line against the opposition and statements from President Boris Yeltsin reneging on his decision to call early presidential elections in June.

A survey presented Sunday on the weekly television show Itoguy gave the Communist Party seven per cent of the vote and put it in third place behind Russia's Choice, a pro-Yeltsin coalition, and a movement led by reformist economist Grigory Yavlinski.

Mr. Yeltsin scheduled the elections for Dec. 12 after he crushed a hardline rebellion in the now-dissolved parliament on Oct. 4.

Communist Party President Gennady Ziuganov complained at a news conference Wednesday about alleged discrimination against his party and its allies in the run-up to elections, but expressed confidence

the party would do well, thanks to "good organisation" and its local allies, such as the Agrarian Party.

He said a poll "we carried out" showed "Russia's Choice" should win 17 per cent of the vote in large towns but 0 per cent in the countryside.

In the April referendum — which gave Mr. Yeltsin and his free-market reforms the support of most Russians — "32 million people voted against" Mr. Yeltsin and 39 million did not vote, the Communist Party leader said.

"If these 39 million vote this time, the result will be very different from what Russia's Choice expects," he added.

Mr. Ziuganov called for the party newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya, banned in the wake of Oct. 4, to be reopened.

He also alleged the Information Ministry was biased in favour of the pro-Yeltsin coalition and called on the ministry to "prevent Russia's Choice," which includes many senior leaders in government, from limiting other parties' right to campaign.

But he acknowledged that parties were getting equal television time for campaigning.

President Yeltsin said Wednesday that the government plans to work out a five-year plan to regulate the defence industry and the export of weapons, news agencies reported.

Mr. Yeltsin told reporters during a visit to the town of

Tula, 200 kilometres south of Moscow, that the plan would also provide for the production of new equipment for the Russian Armed Forces.

"It must provide the highest quality technology," Mr. Yeltsin, quoted by Interfax, said at the end of his two-day visit to the defence-production centre, accompanied by Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev.

The Russian leader, wearing army fatigues, spent two and a half hours in minus 20 degrees weather on the training fields of the Tula Airborne Division, overseeing tactical exercises of a landing operation.

He said that the airborne division served as an example of the type of rapid deployment forces that Russia wants to create under its new military doctrine adopted by the Russian Security Council last month.

Meanwhile, Sergei Shakhrai, a key Russian reformist figure in next month's election, said in a newspaper interview Tuesday he feared the military could effectively take power if there was any more political instability.

"I fear Russia could degenerate into a state ruled by the military and police," Mr. Shakhrai, whose Party of Unity and Accord is taking part in the Dec. 12 parliamentary poll, told the Izvestia newspaper.

Shakhrai's warning was published hours before a television interview in which President Yeltsin criticises Gen.

Grachev.

In the interview, excerpts of which were shown in Germany last week, the 62-year-old president accuses Gen. Grachev of reacting slowly to a failed attempt by Communist and nationalist radicals to seize power on Oct. 3.

Mr. Shakhrai said Russia was suffering a dangerous political vacuum following Mr. Yeltsin's dissolution of the old parliament, and the crushing of an armed uprising by rebel deputies last month.

"(In these circumstances) the military is starting to gain solid political weight," he said. "It's a good job there are no distinctive leaders in their circle."

Mr. Shakhrai said uncertainty in Moscow could encourage the leaders of Russia's provinces to seek more independence.

"There might be a need to keep the military machine on alert ready to put down armed conflicts in the regions and between the regions. And then the political influence of the army will inevitably grow."

Mr. Shakhrai said the elections to the new parliament and a referendum on a new draft constitution, both set for Dec. 12, were the last chance to avoid long-term turmoil.

"If we fail to use this chance... the Russian state could face the dilemma of either disintegrating or turning into a state ruled by the military and police."



LENIN MUSEUM CLOSED: The Lenin Museum, a shrine to the father of the Soviet Union, was closed by authorities Wednesday after President Boris Yeltsin ordered the building turned over to a new city legislature. Museum officials were told to move their exhibits from the building just off Red Square in adjacent premises and to the historical museum across the street, a spokesman said. The red brick building housing the museum was built in

the 1890s to house the City Duma or council. In 1936 it was given over to the Lenin Museum, but now will be returned to the reconstituted City Council. The museum now has over 700,000 exhibits, including Lenin's books, manuscripts and even his personal Rolls Royce. The Russian government is considering removing Lenin's body from a mausoleum on the Red Square. The picture shows a group of supporters of the Communist Party protest inside the Lenin Museum (AFP photo)

Bosnia fighting continues despite snow

SARAJEVO (AP) — Snow silenced guns across much of Bosnia, but heavy fighting broke the calm in the divided city of Mostar, a U.N. official said Wednesday.

Lt.-Col. Bill Aikman reported intense small-arms and sniper fire in the southwestern city, as well as artillery exchanges between the Croat west side of the Neretva River and the besieged Muslim east side.

Spanish peacekeepers said not enough food was reaching the east side to sustain an estimated 35,000 people through the winter. Col. Aikman reported.

So many buildings were destroyed that winter shelter was in question as well, Col. Aikman said.

Col. Aikman said 16 tonnes of relief supplies were airdropped on Mostar during the night.

In central Bosnia, where relief convoys have been suspended for three weeks because of fighting between Croats and Muslim-led government forces, Tuesday's snowfall sharply reduced military activity, Col. Aikman said.

Bosnian Radio said Croat forces continued to shell government positions around Gornji Vakuf, site of a major

Croat offensive Monday. The radio also reported Serb shelling of government positions around Brcko, Doboj and Olovo.

Olovo appealed that it be granted the status of a U.N.-protected "safe area," Bosnian radio reported.

Ray Wilkinson, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Sarajevo, said his agency would try again Wednesday to get a seven-truck relief convoy to two mental hospitals along the Croat-Muslim front line near the town of Fojnica, 40 kilometres west of Sarajevo.

The convoy was turned back Tuesday at a Croat militia checkpoint, according to Mr. Wilkinson, who called the action "appalling."

Peacekeepers have been providing food and protection at the two hospitals since the local staff fled last week during heavy fighting. Most of the staff has returned to one of the facilities, a hospital primarily for children.

Bosnia's Muslim-led government announced that Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic would lead a delegation to Geneva for emergency talks among the warring parties Thursday on ending blockades and harassment

of relief operations.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said more than 2.7 million Bosnians will depend on relief to get through the winter.

Mr. Wilkinson said the UNHCR hoped to resume convoy operations in central Bosnia as soon as possible if the Geneva talks result in assurances of freedom of movement.

"Even if these people do agree in Geneva, there are still people on the ground who are not going to obey what they say," Mr. Wilkinson said. "But at least we can try to stop the widespread attacks (on convoys)."

Throughout Bosnia's war, all sides have used aid deliveries as a weapon, preventing passage of U.N. convoys, setting conditions for aid deliveries or harassing aid workers.

The difficulty of delivering aid in winter is aggravated by snow and ice which make bad, mountainous roads impassable.

Bosnia is entering the second winter of the war that broke out in April 1992, when Serbs rebelled against a Muslim-Croat vote to secede from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia. Up to 200,000 people are dead or missing.

S. Africa reform talks are slow but on track

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African negotiators fought bleary-eyed against the clock Wednesday to put the finishing touches to a constitution to end white minority rule.

Despite last minute delays, delegations from 21 black and white parties were confident a package would be ready to be signed by President F.W. de Klerk, Nelson Mandela and other National figures later Wednesday.

"They will sign off on a post-apartheid constitution — that's the headline," said government chief negotiator Roelf Meyer, looking gaunt but content after last-minute wrangling that went into the early hours of Wednesday.

"It's a constitution to bring together opponents from the previous era and we've succeeded in doing that... it's been a long and hard road to get where we are, now and I'm personally very satisfied," he told reporters.

Matthew Phosa of Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) said the negotiators in the final hours of two years of often fractious and bitter political horse-trading, were "digging the grave for apartheid."

Delegates said last-minute sticking points included percentages required to break deadlocks in an elected assembly charged with drawing up a final constitution, decision-making procedures in an interim national unity cabinet and some constitutional powers to devolve to regional level.

Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk met for four hours Tuesday night to resolve outstanding strategic issues.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said the government and the ANC, formed 80 years ago to break white rule, were in basic agreement on the draft constitution.

It was an historic meeting of minds between Mr. Mandela,

who spent 27 years in jail for fighting for black rights, and Mr. de Klerk, whose National Party invented apartheid in 1948 to entrench three centuries of white supremacy.

But conservative whites and blacks stood apart. They walked out of the talks in July protesting what they perceived to be an ANC-government power-sharing deal.

The Freedom Alliance, comprising the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party of chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, three black homeland governments and pro-apartheid white rightists, have warned of the danger of civil war if the other parties proceed to an election without them.

The government and the ANC have said the door will be left open for the conservative dissidents to rejoin the process at any time.

The draft constitution will be presented to parliament for approval in a session beginning next week.

A multi-party Transitional Executive Council (TEC) will be set up soon to oversee preparations for the election for the Constituent Assembly, on April 27.

The government insists power remains in its hands until a government of national unity is formed after the elections, and that the TEC is purely to ensure free and fair voting.

But political analysts said the TEC would in fact have a watch-dog function with sub-committees overseeing various aspects of government running from defence to foreign affairs and finance, giving blacks their first real taste of political power.

Agreement on the TEC, which was approved at the last special session of parliament in September, opened the way to the lifting of international economic sanctions with the exceptions of military and oil embargoes.

Hosokawa set for reform victory but troubles loom

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa appears to be heading for victory this week in a major battle in parliament over electoral reform, clearing up domestic business in time for Friday's Asia-Pacific economic summit.

But Mr. Hosokawa's troubles are far from over, as analysts predict new political upheavals for both the ruling coalition and the main opposition party.

The government's package of reform bills, aimed at drastically revamping Japan's corruption-plagued political and electoral system, is expected to clear the lower house Thursday before Mr. Hosokawa's departure for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' meeting in Seattle.

"It's almost certain that Mr. Hosokawa will get his reform package approved in the lower house before he leaves for Seattle," said political col-

umnist Minoru Morita. "A confident Hosokawa will then be in a position to demonstrate to U.S. and Asian leaders that his three-month-old coalition government is stable," he said.

Experts predict only a temporary respite for Mr. Hosokawa.

"Hosokawa and his coalition get Kudos for starting up the process of political reform after five years of on-again, off-again debate," said Kenzo Uchida, a commentator and politics professor at Tokai University.

"But the prime minister is going to have to fight an uphill battle over the next month in the upper house where lawmakers of both sides are opposed to political reform," he said.

Mr. Hosokawa has promised to pass his reform package by the year's end or take political responsibility.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Peace possible' in N. Ireland

LONDON (R) — The peace momentum is building in Northern Ireland with the British and Irish prime ministers firmly behind it, one of the province's leading centrist politicians said Wednesday. "We are certainly seeing the possibility of something very important and historic happening," said Dr. John Alderdice, leader of the middle-of-the-road Alliance Party that seeks to bridge sectarian divisions in Northern Ireland. He told BBC Radio: "Without building people's optimism up to an unrealistic level, a certain momentum is building up." In an attempt to break the deadlock in the conflict, British Prime Minister John Major has offered Sinn Fein, political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), a place at the negotiating table if IRA guerrillas lay down their arms. Sinn Fein has consistently been excluded from peace talks because it refuses to renounce violence. The talks, aimed at restoring power-sharing local government in Northern Ireland after 20 years of direct rule from London, broke down last year. Mr. Major and Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds have been pressured into action by an outburst of sectarian bloodshed last month that killed 24 people.

Angola peace talks debate new truce

LUSAKA (R) — U.N.-sponsored talks to try to end Angola's civil war entered a third straight day Wednesday and debated problems of national reconciliation and a new ceasefire, an authoritative source said. "The negotiators were examining various problems of national reconciliation and the need for a new and holding ceasefire," the source told Reuters. "I think it will only be after this meeting that we will know if any significant progress has been made. Each side has presented its own agenda and now the United Nations has to narrow these," he said, without elaborating. Two months ago Angola's UNITA guerrillas declared a unilateral truce in their 18-year war with the government, but the ceasefire collapsed quickly. U.N. special envoy Alioune Blondin Beye, who is hosting the peace talks in the Zambian capital Lusaka, has imposed a news blackout, saying he wanted to save the meeting aimed at ending a war killing at least 1,000 people a day. Diplomatic sources said the face-to-face talks, a follow-up to separate meetings that Mr. Beye had with the belligerents in Lusaka last month, had made some progress but they gave no details.

13 killed in Cambodia attack

PHNOM PENH (R) — Thirteen people have been killed in an attack on a commune in the northwest Cambodian province of Siem Reap, a government spokesman said Wednesday. Spokesman Sieng Lapresse could not identify the attackers, give the nationalities of the victims or say precisely where Tuesday's attack took place. Khmer Rouge guerrillas massacred around 40 ethnic Vietnamese in the province in March. "We don't know the colour or the name of the bandits," Mr. Sieng said. The Maoist Khmer Rouge, the last faction still holding out against peace in Cambodia, are active in the province. Mr. Sieng said they blew up a few miles from the provincial capital on Nov. 11. Siem Reap town is the gateway to the 12th century Angkor temple complex. Dozens of tourists have been arriving in the past month to view the ruins, travel agents said.

'Caputo would be in danger in Haiti'

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) — Hardline supporters of Haiti's military government said U.N. envoy Dante Caputo would be risking his life if he returns to the troubled country. If Mr. Caputo gets off the plane, "he had better get off quickly," said leaders of the Front for Advancement and Progress in Haiti (FRAPH). They added that if something happened to Mr. Caputo, who is charged with overseeing a plan to restore democracy to Haiti, "that would be his problem." Mr. Caputo left Haiti for Washington and the United Nations in New York on Nov. 6 after Haiti's military leaders refused to attend talks with representatives of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the parliament. The FRAPH leaders said they opposed the return of human rights observers and aid workers from the United Nations and Organisation of American States. Thirteen U.N. aid workers who were evacuated from Haiti last month when the drive to restore democracy collapsed returned over the weekend, a diplomat in Haiti said Monday.

Bhutto names foreign minister

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto named Asif Ahmad Ali, from a minority party in her coalition government, as foreign minister. Ali replaces Farooq Leghari, elected president Saturday. Ms. Bhutto also appointed Iqbal Haider, a senate (upper house) member from her Pakistan People's Party (PPP), as minister for law and justice, bringing the total number of ministers in her cabinet to nine. The new foreign minister is a member of the National Assembly (lower house) for Ms. Bhutto's main allied party, a group known as the PML-Junejo Group.

Conflict rages over Kashmir siege

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Allegations of army brutality and fears of further conflict over Kashmir's holiest Muslim shrine were raised Wednesday, a day after a month-long siege of the mosque by Indian troops ended.

The siege ended Tuesday after the 65 armed militants and civilians who had occupied Srinagar's Hazratbal shrine filed out of the mosque to give themselves up.

Though government figures, including Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, denied any deal was made to end the standoff, militant, military and official sources said a compromise was thrashed out.

Kashmiri police officers told Reuters that army soldiers insisted on interrogating the militants late Tuesday and beat some of them severely, despite an agreement that they should be questioned only by local police.

Residents living nearby said they heard screams. No official comment on the allegation was immediately available.

The militants had already accused the government of bad faith, sending messengers to the media to convey their anger at government statements and media reports presenting the end of the siege as an

official victory.

The standoff, which began on Oct. 15, ended peacefully before dawn Tuesday. Inmates were briefly searched by troops and taken for questioning by Kashmiri Police rather than the Indian army — a key point of the compromise, according to sources on both sides.

They said the deal also provided for screening of all the inmates within three days, and equal treatment for two Kashmiris amongst them who were Pakistani nationals.

The sources said both sides had agreed the militants could not be prosecuted for possession of weapons.

N. Zealand premier confident he can govern with slim majority

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand's conservative government secured a one-seat parliamentary majority on Wednesday and Prime Minister Jim Bolger said he could govern for a full three-year term.

The counting of special votes from absentee electors gave Mr. Bolger's National Party the one extra seat it needed for an overall majority, ending the political stalemate created 11 days ago when a general election delivered a hung parliament.

"There's no particular reason why... the elected government cannot govern for the next three years," Mr. Bolger said in a Radio New Zealand interview.

He said he was delighted the stalemate was over but understood the message voters sent his government when they cut its majority from 34 seats.

"Although the final majority is a wafer-thin one, it is naturally very pleasing from the National Party's point of view," Mr. Bolger said soon after the electoral office confirmed National had held the final key marginal seat of Wellington-Karori.

"We understand the message from the electorate."

The vote count lifted National to 50 seats from 49 on election night in the 99-seat parliament, with the Labour opposition dropping to 45 from 46 and the two minor parties steady on four seats.

Financial markets echoed Mr. Bolger's delight with the result, shunting the New Zealand dollar a full cent higher to \$0.5500 and pushing the share market almost five per cent higher on the day.

"National can govern now. It's taken the uncertainty out of the market," said ANZ Bank senior foreign exchange manager Bill Murdoch.

Last week both local and international investors reacted badly to the hung parliament and the voters' decision to change to a proportional representation electoral system.

The huge inroads into National's majority and the cascade of support for the left-leaning Alliance and Populist New Zealand First parties were seen as a rebuff to free-market policies and that both National and Labour governments have pursued since

1984.

"The government totally accepts that New Zealanders in their vote Saturday, Nov. 6, sent a very clear message to the government that there were some aspects of government... that didn't enjoy universal support," Mr. Bolger said.

Labour Party leader Mike Moore congratulated Mr. Bolger and his National Party but stopped short of conceding defeat.

Judicial recounts in marginal electorates remain a possibility but the size of National's majority in its marginals — none is less than 100 — make a successful recount unlikely.

"Congratulations to National... they have the warrant to form a government to offer this country some direction," Mr. Moore told Radio New Zealand.

Mr. Bolger reversed his earlier decision not to attend the meeting of Pacific rim leaders at this week's Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation conference in Seattle.

He said he would fly to the conference Thursday morning and return the following Tuesday to form his administration.

Forged art found at raided Swedish museum

STOCKHOLM (R) — Freshly-made forgeries of eight art works turned up Sunday on the steps of a Stockholm Museum, a week after the originals were taken in a robbery that was a carbon copy of a classic 1950s film. "When I came into the room they smelled of paint. They were dry but I'd say they were made last week," Kjell Hestrell, head of security at the Modern Museum, told Swedish radio. Seven paintings and a sculpture by cubist masters Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque, estimated to be worth at least \$60 million, were stolen a week ago from the museum in a daring raid. Police at first told reporters the works were probably the real things, returned by nervous robbers, but it became clear they were fakes once the museum's experts examined them. "They were not very well done for forgeries," Hestrell said. "There were details missing and it was easy to see in comparison with photographs," he added. Swedish media said the forgeries, which included fake signatures, were probably the work of students at a Stockholm art school. Two art students told Swedish television that a set of copies they had made for an exhibition had disappeared from the school premises Saturday night. "This was a bad joke," museum director Bjorn Springfeldt told the Swedish news agency (TT).

Fixer-upper castle for rent at 1 franc

TOULOUSE, France (AFP) — Want a 17th-century French chateau? Now's the time to rent — the village of Pointisnard is offering one for a symbolic 1 franc (18 cents). Of course, there's a catch. Though the roof doesn't leak and the walls are solid, the castle needs an estimated 3 million to 5 million francs (\$600,000 to \$1 million) in fix-up costs. Jean-Louis Puissegar, the mayor of the village in this sunny southwestern corner of France, estimates that's the likely cost to put in the new wiring, heating and furniture the place needs. Used as a vacation hotel until about a year and a half ago, the chateau sits on a 4.5-hectare (11-acre) estate. The four-story structure has 600 square metres of floor space. The village, which will keep ownership of the castle, has already had offers from parties interested in installing businesses, seminar centres, or a retirement home.

Dead letters may have their day

BANGKOK (R) — Two letters of the Thai alphabet that have fallen out of use should be revived as part of a year of culture in 1994, the deputy education minister said. If this is impossible, memorials should be erected to the two letters at the gates of the Education Ministry so they are not forgotten, Adisorn Pienkate told reporters. The letters in question are pronounced the same as others in the 44-character alphabet and were ruled redundant by the Royal Academic Institute in 1982 and withdrawn from its dictionary. The Nation newspaper said. However, they are still part of the alphabet taught in Thai schools.

'Rent a womb' billboard draws huge response

HOUSTON (R) — An aspiring surrogate mother who has proclaimed her "womb for rent" on a billboard overlooking a busy Houston freeway has received hundreds of calls from prospective clients, her lawyer said Monday. "It has been pretty well overwhelming," the anonymous woman's lawyer Roger Broach said of the response to the unusual advertising campaign. "I imagine by now we've had 200 to 300 calls from prospects," Mr. Broach said candidates for the woman's services have come from as far away as Australia and the Netherlands. He said there had been relatively few calls from cranks or critics of surrogate motherhood. The Houston-area woman's billboard appeared Friday and ran through Sunday and cost \$750 to rent for four days. The billboard advertises: "Womb for rent educated, healthy, living surrogate mother available." It directs calls to Mr. Broach's law office. A surrogate mother agrees to carry a term, an embryo from a fertilised egg implanted in her womb or from a pregnancy by artificial insemination. The practice has aroused controversy because of some cases in which surrogate mothers changed their minds about giving up the babies they carried.

Al Wihdat takes top spot

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three matches are lined-up Thursday as the first division soccer championship enters its third week with 12 teams taking part and Al Wihdat topping the charts.

Newcomers and little-known teams will seek to upset their opponents in their quest for an advanced standing. Al Qadissieh play Sahab, Al Ahli face Al Hussein and Al Faisali. Al Wihdat and Al Faisali will conclude the week's action Friday.

During the past week top contenders Al Wihdat and Al Hussein scored impressive wins, while titleholders Al Faisali had the week off as opponents Al Ramtha travelled to Saudi Arabia for the Arab Clubs' Cup.

Al Hussein gave newcomers Al Faisali a frigid welcome as Aref Hussein scored a hat-trick in his team's 4-0 win.

Hussein opened scoring in the 7th minute just as Faisali's striker Khader Mubarak lost two chances to score for his team. Hussein gave his team a 2-0 lead in the 39th minute and 7 minutes later assisted teammate Munib Gharaibeh in scoring Al Hussein's third goal. Hussein scored his third personal goal in the 75th minute ending the match with a 4-0 win for Al Hussein who are now in fourth place.

Al Ahli managed a 2-2 draw with Al Qadissieh who lost a 2-1 lead after Mousa Shteyan equalised for Al Ahli in the 72nd minute.

Al Ahli had opened scoring in the 10th minute, but Al Qadissieh equalised in the 30th minute and took the lead after Raad Momani scored in the 59th minute.

Al Qadissieh are now in second place after their 1-0 win over Yarmouk last week. Al Wihdat took the lead in standings after a 3-0 win over Al Baqaa.

Hisham Abdul Munem scored the first goal in the 20th minute to be followed six minutes later by another goal by Marwan Al Shamali. Al Baqaa nevertheless attacked their opponents goal and had two scoring chances. Taha Mohammad scored the final goal in the 78th minute.

Standings after 2nd week

Teams	P	W	GD	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Al Wihdat	2	2	—	—	—	5	—	6
Al Qadissieh	2	1	—	—	—	3	2	5
Al Faisali	1	1	—	—	—	4	—	3
Al Hussein	2	1	—	—	1	4	2	3
Al Ramtha	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	3
Al Baqaa	2	1	—	—	1	1	3	3
Al Faisali	2	1	—	—	1	1	4	3
Al Ahli	2	—	—	1	1	2	3	2
Al Yarmouk	2	—	—	1	1	2	3	2
Sahab	2	—	—	1	1	2	3	2
Al Jazireh	2	—	—	1	1	1	3	2
Al Arabi	2	—	—	1	1	1	5	2

2 Michaels dominate 1st day of ATP finals

FRANKFURT (Agencies) — Michael Stich's serve and volley and Michael Chang's courage dominated the opening day of the ATP World Tennis Championships.

Former Wimbledon champion Stich used his favourite fast-court tactics to the full on the indoor carpeted surface to beat an off-form Andrei Medvedev 6-3, 6-4 in his opening round-robin group match.

Ashhab scored his team's equaliser six minutes later. Both teams tried to score a winning goal to advance their standings. Yarmouk's 69th minute goal was equalised five minutes later, as both teams settled for 2 points each.

Al Jazireh and Al Arabi also played to a 1-1 draw with Jazireh's Tawfiq Al Saheb opening the score in the 19th minute. Al Arabi's Mohammad Alawneh equalised in the 52nd minute.

Chang produced a typically spirited performance to end his disastrous losing record at the tournament when he upset Australian Open champion Jim Courier with an impressive 6-4, 6-0 victory.

The tactics of the two Michaels on a tennis court are as far apart as their respective heights.

The towering Stich is powerful yet elegant as he homes in on the net for his crisp volleying. The diminutive Chang hugs the baseline and gets his points by scampering around the court and scavenging for every ball.

But their common denominator Tuesday was concentration under pressure.

Former French Open champion Chang, who lost all of his six encounters in his two previous appearances at the year-ending tournament in 1989 and 1992, hit some brilliant ground strokes as he clinched a rare victory over Courier.

The American world number two, who has struggled with his game in recent months after reaching the final of the French Open and Wimbledon earlier in the year, could find no answer to Chang's industry and determination.

"I'm looking forward to next year. I didn't play my best tennis but I can't look back now."

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain capped off the programme by beating Czech Helena Sukova 7-5, 6-2.

Sanchez, who avenged a semifinals loss to Sukova at the U.S. Open, set up a meeting with Novotna while 16th-ranked Pierce graduated to a round-of-eight clash against third seed Martina Navratilova, a seven-time winner of the event.

Steffi Graf, the world number one and top seed, was expected to play Wednesday.

Greek Olympic champion Dimas wins world weightlifting title

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Pyrrhos Dimas of Greece, a national hero after his victory in the 1992 Olympics, triumphed Wednesday in the men's 83-kilogram division at the World Weightlifting Championships.

Dimas won the gold medals in the snatch and overall, while German Marc Huster won the gold in the clean-and-jerk and silver overall and celebrated by jumping somersaults on the podium.

Dimas, cheered on by hundreds of flag-waving Greek fans, hoisted 175 kilograms (385 3/4 pounds) in the snatch and 202.5 (446 1/2) in the jerk for a total of 377.5 (832 1/4).

Huster's 210 kilograms (463 pounds) to win the jerk was a world record in the new weight division.

Kiril Kounev, the former Bulgarian who was making his debut for Australia, won a silver medal in the jerk and the bronze overall. They were Australia's first World Championship medals in any class.

Alexander Blyshyk of Ukraine won the silver in the snatch and László Barsi of Hungary took the bronze, but both were injured and could not complete a lift in the jerk section.

"I was expecting maybe one medal, so I exceeded my own expectations," he said. "To get a gold and a silver was a great success for me and that's why I

was so excited."

Milena Trendafilova of Bulgaria earlier swept all three gold medals in the women's 70-kilogram class.

The 23-year-old former national javelin champion lifted 100 kilograms (220 1/2 pounds) in the snatch and 130 (286 1/2) in the clean-and-jerk for a total of 230 (485).

It was the sixth successive World Championships in which she had won the snatch, but the first time since 1990 she had won the overall title.

Li Chiaping of China, the favourite, did not compete. Chinese officials said she had not made the weight and would instead compete in the 76-kilogram class Thursday.

"I came here expecting to win the silver medals, so I was delighted the Chinese girl didn't make the weight," Trendafilova said.

"I don't think I had much chance of beating her, because the Chinese are extremely strong."

Chinese lifters have won all four of the women's divisions they have contested at the championships.

Kumi Haseba of Japan took the silver medal overall and in the jerk and the bronze in the snatch, while Kim Dong-Hee

of South Korea took the silver in the snatch and two bronze.

Trendafilova, who finished second in the 67.5-kilogram class at last year's World Championships in Varna, was the fourth Bulgarian to win an overall title here.

Three men — Ivan Ivanov, Nikolai Peshalov and Yoto Yotov — also have won overall titles in Melbourne.

All three of Trendafilova's winning lifts will be recognised as world records in the new weight category even though they were well below her personal bests.

These championships are the first event in which world records can be officially recognised in new weight classes introduced earlier this year.

Lifting in 10 men's divisions and nine women's divisions continues at the Royal Exhibition Building through Sunday.

Australian fails drug test

Australia was "severely embarrassed" that one of its competitors had tested positive to illegal steroids prior to the World Championships.

Australian Weightlifting Federation President Sam Coffa said Wednesday.

But Coffa said the fact that three Australian lifters had returned positive drug tests this year proved officials were serious about eliminating drugs completely.

Ron Laycock, who finished eighth in the 76-kilogram class at the World Championships Tuesday, was identified as having failed a test by Elizabeth Franks, director of the Tasmanian State Institute of Sport.

Laycock, 28, has held a scholarship at the institute for the past two years.

Pierce upsets Sabatini in New York

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Mary Pierce of France scored a breakthrough victory at the expense of a slumping Gabriela Sabatini at the \$3.5 million Virginia Slims Championships.

Pierce, a power-hitting prodigy who has been slow to fulfil expectations, registered her first career win against a top 10 player and ended fifth seed Sabatini's dismal season in the process with a 7-6 (10-8) 6-3 victory.

"It feels so good," said the 18-year-old Pierce after her smashing debut in the women's season-ending championships. Pierce had lost eight times to top 10 players this season alone, including a heartbreaking loss to Sabatini in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open.

"I said to myself, 'finally' " Pierce said after the two-hour first-round match. "Now that I did it, I feel great."

The loss extended Sabatini's streak to 26 tournaments without a title.

Earlier, Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic outlasted a stubborn Zina Garrison-Jackson in three sets to reach the second round.

Novotna, the seventh seed in the select 16-player field, squandered a 5-2 lead in the second-set tiebreaker before registering a 6-4, 6-7 (5-7) 6-3

victory over the American on the blue carpet at Madison Square Garden.

Pierce, who lost a 14-12 second-set tiebreaker to Sabatini before crumbling 6-0 in the third set in their Melbourne encounter, turned the tables on the Argentine by claiming the first set Tuesday by 10-8 in the tiebreaker.

The slender 5-foot-11 (1.80 m) blonde with the blistering groundstrokes needed four set points to finish Sabatini, who swatted a backhand wide and then mis-hit a forehand into the garden crowd to end it.

Sabatini, whose strokes seemed to float in contrast to the rockets that Pierce sent from corner to corner, was broken in the third game of the second set to trail 2-1. But the Argentine broke right back to pull even.

Then Pierce took charge once and for all, breaking Sabatini at love for a 3-2 lead with a last-point surrender on a double fault.

Sabatini fought to the finish, but Pierce cashed in on her third match point of the ninth game when she broke Sabatini on a backhand drive that the Argentine thought was out.

"I didn't play well in the big moments. I made too many errors," said Sabatini, who held set point in the tiebreak

when serving at 7-6, and who was also broken at love when serving for the first set at 5-4.

"I'm glad this year is over with," said the sixth-ranked Sabatini, whose last victory came in 1992 at the Italian Open.

"I'm looking forward to next year. I didn't play my best tennis but I can't look back now."

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain capped off the programme by beating Czech Helena Sukova 7-5, 6-2.

Sanchez, who avenged a semifinals loss to Sukova at the U.S. Open, set up a meeting with Novotna while 16th-ranked Pierce graduated to a round-of-eight clash against third seed Martina Navratilova, a seven-time winner of the event.

Steffi Graf, the world number one and top seed, was expected to play Wednesday.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHCH
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North-South vulnerable. South deals.	
NORTH	A Q 8
	A R Q 9 7 2
	Void
	10 8 4
WEST	9 8 2
	7 4
	10 8 3
	Q 8 4
	A 7 2
EAST	7 4
	J 10 8 2
	K J 9 8 5 3
SOUTH	K 10 8 5
	10 8
	A K 7 6 5 3
	Q

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South West North East
1 Pass 2 Pass
2 Pass 3 Pass
4 Pass 4 Pass
4NT Pass 5 Pass
6 Pass Pass Pass

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China, Japan reach Asian basketball quarter finals

JAKARTA (AP) — Defending champion China and runner-up Japan made it to the quarterfinals by respectively trouncing Pakistan and Indonesia in the fourth day of the men's Asian Basketball Championships.

China outpowered Pakistan 112-40 for the second place in Group A and goes further into the quarterfinals, scheduled to begin Thursday.

Japan, in Group C, outplayed the host Indonesia 94-53

after leading 41-23 in the last game of the day. The victory placed Japan into the quarterfinals along with unbeaten Iran.

In other games Tuesday, Malaysia trounced Bangladesh 144-73, the Philippines outplayed Singapore 89-62 and Jordan defeated Thailand 72-63.

Other competitors for the quarterfinals are South Korea and United Arab Emirates, both from Group B.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Qadhafi threatens to torch oil fields

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi Wednesday threatened to set his country's oil fields ablaze in protest at the tightening of U.N. sanctions. "Millions are ready to march to the oil fields, burn them and destroy the oil terminals," Colonel Qadhafi told demonstrators protesting the sanctions at a rally in Qasr Ben Ghasheer, 25 kilometres south of Tripoli. "The fires would not be set secretly, but in public before the world's eyes and during demonstrations which would be transmitted by satellite," he said. "Our people lived for thousands of years without oil and will not sell off its dignity, liberty and future in exchange for black gold," he added.

Panther lawyer wants Arafat to testify

JENIN, occupied West Bank (AFP) — A lawyer called Wednesday for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to take the stand in the murder trial of the head of the Black Panthers, an armed wing of Fatah. "My client is a soldier of the PLO," lawyer Loai Hamamshi told the military court in Jenin. "It's Yasser Arafat and other PLO leaders who gave the orders and they should answer for them," said Mr. Hamamshi, who is defending Ahmad Awad Ali Kamil. "He is neither a terrorist nor an assassin, and he must be treated as a prisoner of war." Mr. Kamil was arrested on Sept. 29 with five others and charged with plotting the murder of a soldier in 1991 and the execution of 12 alleged Palestinian collaborators.

Italian shot in Cairo attack dies

ROME (R) — Luigi Daga, an Italian magistrate who was shot in the head during an attack in a Cairo hotel last month, died on Wednesday, doctors said. Mr. Daga, 46, a counsellor at the Justice Ministry, was attending a seminar on international penal law in the Semiramis Hotel in Cairo when he and six other people were shot by a lone gunman. Officials described the attacker as mentally deranged. Two Americans and a Frenchman who were also attending the legal conference in October were killed instantly. Mr. Daga was flown to a Rome hospital after the shooting.

5 hanged in public in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Five men convicted of rape, murder and armed robbery have been hanged in public in northwestern Iran, Kayhan newspaper reported Wednesday. The five, who had been sentenced to death by a revolutionary court, were hanged early Tuesday in a public square in Bukan, a town in West Azerbaijan province, it said. It was the second public hanging event reported in the region in the past three weeks. Three people were executed in the town of Orumiye late last month after they were found guilty of murder and terrorism in public. Four convicted robbers were also executed in April in Sirjan, southwest Iran. Armed robbery and rape are crimes punishable by death in Iran.

Iran censures Amnesty report

NICOSIA (AP) — Tehran Wednesday rebuffed an Amnesty International report on suspected Iranian death squads, suggesting the organisation has "a vendetta against Islamic Iran." Iran's denouncement came hours after the release of a report by the London-based human rights watchdog signalling distress at reports of Iranian execution teams murdering dissidents abroad. The Amnesty report listed cases in Germany, Turkey and France where individuals with links to the Iranian government of secret service were implicated. The group also condemned Tehran's practices at home of torture and unfair trial, excessive use of the death penalty and infringement of women's rights. In a dispatch by the official Islamic Republic News Agency, the government tried to fend off the criticism by saying Amnesty paid no attention to Iran's "mammoth humanitarian efforts" to shelter refugees streaming in from conflicts on its borders.

Egypt, Israel to link electricity grids

CAIRO (AFP) — Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal arrived in Cairo Wednesday hoping to sign an agreement on linking the two countries' electricity grids and promote cooperation on solar energy. "We have ideas about research in solar energy and we came here to study them in the framework of Egyptian-Israeli cooperation," Mr. Shahal told reporters upon arrival. Israeli officials said earlier that Mr. Shahal also sought an accord joining Egypt's and Israel's electricity grids through the Sinai border resort of Taba and El Arish on the Mediterranean. Mr. Shahal also wants to sign a contract to buy Egyptian gas for the occupied Gaza Strip and Israel. Mr. Shahal's two-day journey in Egypt was described as an "exploratory visit" by the Egyptian Oil Minister Hamdi Al Banni.

S. African minister arrives in Bahrain

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha held talks Wednesday with Emir Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa on improving ties with the Arab World following the dismantling of apartheid. The leaders discussed improving ties in economic, industrial and investment sectors, and reviewed the political situations of their regions, according to an official statement. Mr. Botha also met with Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khalifa, who said new ties with the emirate would be "in the interest of the South African nation and its political and social stability," the Gulf News Agency reported.

Bhutto to visit Iran soon — IRNA

TEHRAN (AFP) — Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is to visit Iran soon, the official news agency IRNA said Wednesday. The plans were announced in a meeting Wednesday between a member of the Iranian parliament, Mohammad Javad Larjani, and Pakistan's ambassador to Iran, Najmuddin A. Sheikh, it said. No precise date was given. Mr. Larjani praised the return of political stability in Pakistan and called for a "strong, independent and developed Pakistan," according to IRNA. "We hope that a new chapter will begin in our relations," he said. Mr. Sheikh called for expansion of trade and economic ties between the two countries. Ms. Bhutto, reelected as prime minister in October after she lost her post two years before, last visited Iran in May 1990.

Israel, Vatican to open ties soon — Peres

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel and the Vatican will establish diplomatic relations "very soon" ending 45 years of deep mistrust, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told AFP on Wednesday. "The normalisation of diplomatic relations with the Vatican is for very soon," said Mr. Peres, architect of the Sept. 13 Palestinian autonomy agreement. "I can't give an exact date but it's a question of weeks," he said. Eitan Margalit, the foreign ministry official in charge of relations with Christian churches, added: "We are at a very advanced stage in the negotiations which we started in July. We are close to a fundamental agreement on mutual recognition."

Iran, Palestinian groups coordinate efforts

DAMASCUS (AP) — The commander of Iran's Revolutionary Council met with Shi'ite Muslim and Palestinian groups to coordinate their armed resistance to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord, sources said Wednesday. The sources, who are close to the Shi'ite fundamentalist Hizbollah, said Mohsen Rezaie met with Hizbollah and 10 Palestinian groups based here. They said the conferees reaffirmed "the need to undermine" the accord between Israel and the PLO and revive Palestinian revolt in the Israeli-occupied territories. The sources, who refused to be named, would not say who represented Hizbollah in the meeting.

Norwegian envoy meets Hamas leaders

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Norwegian envoy held talks with members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Amman on the group's opposition to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement, but did not seek to mediate the rift between Hamas and the mainstream PLO, a Hamas spokesman said Wednesday. Ibrahim Ghosheh, the spokesman, said Per J. Haugestad, Norway's ambassador to Egypt who is also accredited to Jordan, met with Mohammad Nazzal, the Hamas representative in Amman, on Tuesday "for first-hand information on Hamas' views towards the Gaza-Jericho agreement."

Hamas, which challenges the PLO for leadership of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories, is a fierce opponent of the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord, which grants progressive autonomy to the Palestinians in the occupied territories starting

with the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. "We outlined our opposition to the agreement and pledged to continue our struggle to end the Zionist occupation of our land," Mr. Ghosheh told the Jordan Times.

"We told the ambassador that we are not against the Jewish people, but against the Zionist occupation of our land," he said.

Mr. Ghosheh said Mr. Nazzal also told Mr. Haugestad that "our resistance to the occupation is our right under international law and not different from the resistance that European countries put up against (Nazi) Germany during World War II."

No Norwegian comment was immediately available. The Hamas spokesman said the Norwegian official did not offer to mediate the rift between Hamas and the mainstream PLO. "No such proposals were made during the meeting, which lasted more than one hour," he said. "The meeting was dedicated to an explanation of the

Hamas' stands, which Norway wanted to understand."

In any event, Mr. Ghosheh said, such reconciliation talks were not possible since the differences between the positions of the PLO leaders and Hamas were too wide to bridge.

According to Mr. Ghosheh, the meeting "was part of Hamas' contacts and dialogue with all countries and parties in the world." He declined to name the countries and parties.

The United States held a short-lived dialogue with Hamas early this year in a bid described by State Department officials as aimed at understanding "political Islam." It cut off the contacts after two or three meetings with Hamas officials in Amman.

Diplomatic sources speculated that Mr. Haugestad, whose country played a key role in arranging the secret meetings between Israeli and PLO officials that led to the autonomy accord, could be trying to sound out whether it could repeat its successful

performance in the Hamas-PLO rift.

Hamas, which is not a PLO faction, has said it is ready to open dialogue with all factions and leaders of the PLO except those who were directly involved in the autonomy accord, particularly Chairman Yasser Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas, the PLO executive who signed accord with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Washington on Sept. 13.

Hamas has accepted a Yemeni invitation for a broad meeting of all PLO factions for reconciliation talks. But that acceptance is conditional that Mr. Arafat and Mr. Abbas do not attend the gathering.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, who personally supervised the secret Israel-PLO talks in Oslo, met with Mr. Arafat in Tunis on Tuesday. But that meeting was seen mostly aimed at convincing the PLO chairman to change his approach to the utilisation of international funding for Palestinian autonomy.

Child B admits being at mall where toddler taken

PRESTON (AP) — One of two schoolboys accused of killing a toddler first lied about being in the shopping mall where the two-year-old was abducted, then tearfully admitted being there, according to tapes heard Wednesday.

The boy, who can only be identified as Child B, initially made up an elaborate tale of how he and Child A spent Friday, Feb. 12, the day they skipped school and the day James Bulger was murdered.

Asked why he lied, a crying Child told police: "Because, because if you thought I went and I sagged off (skipped school) and you'd think that I killed James."

Prosecutors say the two 11-year-olds lured James from his mother and led him about three kilometres across Liverpool. His body was found beside a railway track two days later.

Both boys, who were 10 at the time, have pleaded innocent. In tapes played earlier for the court, Child A admitted to police that the two boys took James. Child A told police that

he had not harmed James, but that Child B had battered the toddler with bricks and an iron bar. Prosecutors have said Child B had admitted throwing bricks at the little boy.

The police interviews with Child B heard Wednesday took place on Feb. 18, the day he was arrested. His mother, who was present at the Lower Lane police station with the boy's lawyer and two police officers, is heard losing her temper after Child B finally admits being at the mall.

"If I would have known this all now... I would have had you down the police station right away instead of them banging on my front door and making a show of me in the street," Child B's mother told the boy.

Child B broke down under gentle nudging from detective Sergeant Mark Dale and more firm questions from his mother.

"But we never got a kid mum, we never. We saw those two lads together, we did. We never got a kid mum. Mum we never got a kid. You think we

did, we never. Mum, we never." Child B sobbed and moaned.

Police cut the interview short because the child was so upset.

Child B looked down at his hands while the court heard the tapes. His father, sitting with elbows on knees and head bowed, wiped his eyes. Child B's mother, who has been in court for most of the proceedings, remained in another room Wednesday.

Sgt. Dale testified that after he arrested Child B and warned him of his rights the boy "started to cry, and amidst the crying he said, 'I don't want to go to prison, mum. I didn't kill the baby.'"

His mother at first thought the boy was in trouble for skipping school, the officer said.

Sgt. Dale said the mother told Child B: "I told you they would be here. He came home on Friday full of paint."

Child B's mustard-coloured jacket, smeared with blue paint which was also found on James, is among the exhibits in

the trial. Child B told police he did not want to skip school Feb. 12 because he wanted to pick up the gerbils he was responsible for during the upcoming holiday. But Child B said Child A convinced him to play hooky.

Earlier the court heard Child B said he stopped being friends with Child A because "he gets me into trouble."

Asked by police whether he sometimes got himself in trouble, the boy replied: "Yes. Sometimes I tell him to do things so he does it."

At one point, Child B says he believes that A is a "girl" because he sucks his thumb. When that was played, Child A turned to look at Child B, who stared at his hands rather than look at his companion.

The judge has told the jury that any statement made by one boy when his co-defendant was not present cannot be considered as evidence against the other.

If convicted, the boys will be held indefinitely in a facility for young, very serious offenders.

50 feared killed in government bombing near Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — Up to 50 people are feared dead after government fighter jets bombed a rebel-controlled town near the capital of Kabul, a Red Cross spokesman said Wednesday.

Bombs fell Monday and Tuesday on Sarobi, marking an escalation in the two-week-old battle in the Tagob valley, northeast of Kabul.

An estimated 250 people, mostly civilians, have died in the fight between rebels loyal to Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his arch-enemy President Burhanuddin Rabbani's militia.

A number of this week's bombs landed in a crowded Sarobi bazaar filled with shoppers and merchants, and local residents said 40 to 50 people were killed, said a Red Cross official who asked not to be identified.

The Red Cross could not confirm the death toll but a rescue party said at least 12 people were evacuated with serious injuries.

Mr. Rabbani's militia has been waging a fierce battle with Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami rebels since Nov. 1 in the strategic Tagob valley.

Prior to the bombing raid there had been no major attack on Sarobi, which is controlled by Mr. Hekmatyar's guerrillas. The town sits on the main highway that links Kabul to its eastern neighbour, Pakistan. The rebels could cripple Mr. Rabbani if they were to stop trucks from ferrying supplies into the capital.

The United Nations said a 16-truck convoy of food headed to Kabul from Pakistan was stopped in Sarobi by the guerrillas, who demand the government halt the bombing.

A broadcast by government-controlled Radio Kabul broadcast on Tuesday accused Mr. Hekmatyar's rebels of firing at least five rockets on the eastern edge of the capital, wounding two people.

The report could not be independently confirmed.

Security Council concerned over Kuwait-Iraq incident

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council has expressed concern over Tuesday's incident at the Kuwait-Iraq border where some 350 Iraqi farmers forced back Kuwaiti bulldozers which were digging a security trench.

This month's council president, Jose Luis Jesus of Cape Verde, said Tuesday he had conveyed his concern to Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Nizar Hamdoun, in the hope of preventing further border incidents.

The Kuwaitis were digging a trench at Al Haddama, some 600 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, to demarcate the new border established by the United Nations in May. Kuwait was awarded an extra strip of land some 600 metres wide that is being disputed by Iraq.

Baghdad, which is engaged in new talks here, has been accused by Kuwait of instigating border incidents and by opposition Shiite leaders of launching chemical weapons attacks on villages in southern Iraq.

General Amer Rashid, who

heads the Iraqi delegation at the U.N. talks, said Tuesday that the Shiite had "failed to present one victim" of the alleged chemical weapons attacks.

The use of such weapons, he added, "can easily be checked by a blood test of one victim."

Some Iraqis quoted in the New York Times Tuesday said that on returning to their village after a chemical weapons attack in late September they saw dead vegetation, along with cats, dogs, birds and other animals, signs that weapons experts said were consistent with the use of nerve gas.

U.N. investigators were sent to Iraq on Sunday to collect statements from Iraqi refugees who fled across the border after the Iraqi attacks.

Gen. Rashid said discussions at U.N. headquarters focused on Iraqi disarmament efforts, adding that the talks, which were expected to last several days, were evolving in a "professional way."

The U.S. State Department said Tuesday it is very concerned about reports that Iraqi

forces have been using chemical weapons in their campaign against opposition in southern Iraq.

Acting State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly said the Iraqis have been continuing their artillery bombardment as well as burning, draining and razing activities in the southern marshlands.

But she was unable to confirm the use of chemical weapons, the first reports of which surfaced about six weeks ago.

Ms. Shelly said the administration is looking forward to receipt of a report by the U.N. team.

In 1988, Iraqi forces used chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurds in the northern part of the country, forcing many to flee. As part of the campaign against the Kurds, 4,000 villages were destroyed.

Britain released aerial pictures Monday it said showed the destruction of villages in the marshes of southern Iraq.

"Iraqi ground force units, either burning buildings or using high explosives... are

Thousands mourn Arafat aide

SIDON (AP) — Thousands of weeping Palestinians on Wednesday buried Yasser Arafat's aide, Mouen Shabaita, the fifth Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official slain since its peace accord with Israel.

Mr. Shabaita, 50, was gunned down in Lebanon's southern port city of Sidon Monday. The funeral was delayed until Wednesday so that three of his five children could fly in from Italy and Germany.

The procession was led by dozens of rifle-toting militiamen of Mr. Arafat's Fatah mainstream faction. Some 7,000 mourners marched behind Mr. Shabaita's coffin, which was carried on gun carriage draped in the Palestinian red-green-black-and-white flag.

Munir Makdah, the Fatah militia leader sacked by Mr. Arafat last month for his rebellion against the Sept. 13 PLO-Israel accord, walked alongside his loyalist successor, Badih Krayem, through the two-hour funeral.

The rebels, headed by Lieutenant-Colonel Makdah, have vowed to wreck the peace accord that grants Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank town of Jericho, but pledged to refrain from inter-Palestinian violence.

Col. Makdah's appearance at the funeral indicated that loyalists believe he had nothing to do with the shooting, which Fatah has blamed on Abu Nidal.

The teenaged 'Ain Al Hilweh camp, the largest among the 13 Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, was shattered in mourning for the fallen leader.

His coffin was lowered to its last resting place at the shantytown cemetery to the booms of a 21-gun salvo and chants of "To the paradise of martyrs you go."

Mr. Shabaita's assassination came only six days after Mr. Arafat's political representative in South Lebanon, Zeid Wehbeh, was shot and wounded in Sidon by unknown assailants.

COLUMN

Bonn minister calls colleague a 'lout'

BONN (R) — A dispute between Germany's foreign and defence ministers has flared public with Klaus Kinkel ported to have called his colleague Volker Ruehe "a lout and a boor" for meddling in foreign policy. Stern magazine said Mr. Kinkel had complained angrily to members of his liberal Free Democrats (FDP), junior partners in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) about Defence Minister Ruehe's push to expand foreign policy influence. The report, excerpts of which were released ahead of publication Thursday, said Mr. Kinkel tried in vain to stop Mr. Ruehe, a Christian Democrat from making a recent trip to Asia on the grounds that it interfered with foreign policy.

"Ruehe is a lout and a boor," the weekly quoted Mr. Kinkel as saying. A Foreign Minister spokesman could not be reached for comment on the report, but neither Mr. Kinkel nor the FDP issued a denial. Mr. Kinkel and Mr. Ruehe have clashed over issues including Germany's deployment of peacekeepers to the U.N. operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) at a time when Bonn is trying to define a military role for itself after the end of the cold war. The foreign minister acknowledged disagreements with Mr. Ruehe in interviews with German television Sunday evening.

Prince Rainier sues foreign 'banks'

MONACO (AFP) — Monaco's Prince Rainier said he was suing foreign financial institutions that were using his name to attract funds for investment in Eastern Europe. He named a so-called Rothschild Bank based in Anguilla, which has put his signature at the bottom of a prospectus, the Netherlands, Inc. of Delaware in the United States, Mitac Holdings of the Netherlands, and Allied Trading of Lebanon. A statement said the ruler of the tiny principality totally denied any participation, patronage or recommendation of such companies which he accused of "forgery and deceit." Prince Rainier warned the public against any one soliciting funds with documents bearing his name and title, the statement said.

Prince's biscuits are a hit

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's environmentally-conscious Prince Charles is hoping the latest product from his Cornish estates, ginger biscuits, will sell like hot cakes to host the biscuits, produced with artificial ingredients, have gone on sale in some 400 outlets in Britain and even in some posh Parisian food shops. The biscuits, which are sold at the rate of up to 30 recyclable packets a week in London's Selfridges Store, £1.75 (\$2.5) each. A total of 14,000 packets, each containing 16 biscuits, are produced per day. Profits go to the Prince of Wales Charitable Trust, but gourmet are divided on their taste. Some detractors described them as "suspiciously

Clinton meets parents of slain Japanese student

WASHINGTON (R) — President Clinton has met the parents of a 16-year-old Japanese exchange student who was shot to death by a Louisiana homeowner who mistook him for an intruder. Masaichi Mikioka Hattori spent about 10 minutes with Mr. Clinton, the White House talking about his son Yoshihiro, who was killed in October 1992 when a student and a companion, Webb Haymaker, knocked on the door of Rodney Peairs by mistake while looking for a nearby Halloween costume party. The case drew worldwide attention as an example of the consequences of lax gun control in the United States. Mr. Peairs was acquitted of manslaughter charges. The couple joined the members of the Haymaker family and representatives of the coalition to stop gun violence headed Mr. Clinton.

The coalition, which has a petition signed by 1.7 million Japanese urging Americans to ban handguns, "We started a petition because we love America just as Yoshi did."

He also wore his trademark red and white cap and seemed to welcome the chance to talk to visitors.

"Days and night I don't speak to anybody and nobody speaks to me," he said. He refused reports that he had once worked for the Central Intelligence Agency, saying if that were true, "I wouldn't be in the MCC right now."

He said he wants to show that Islam is not "a terrorist's religion."

"We don't approve killing innocent people and destroying public or general properties. We never make any threats against innocent people," he said.

He said it was right for Muslims to fight the government of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak because, he said, it had raided the nation's treasury, thrown thousands of people in jail for no reason and committed other crimes that prevent its people from being free.

Those kinds of atrocities "give the people the right to rise against a government," Sheikh Abdul Rahman said. "You'll never see that here in America," he said.

The cleric also blasted his conditions at the MCC, saying he was refused the right to be in the general population and to have a job at the federal lockup.

"Let me teach the Muslims here the Koran," he said, as he sat in a prison conference room in green, two-piece prison clothing issued to disabled pris-

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